DAILY EXPRESS

CAMPAIGNING FOR A BETTER BRITAIN

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Labour 'slowly unwinding' measures to help hospitality with soaring business rates

OUR STRUGGLING PUBS WILL FACE YEARS OF TAX RISES

BY **JONATHAN WALKER**
Whitehall Editor

RACHEL Reeves was accused of "costing Britain jobs" after it emerged that our struggling pubs face years of huge tax rises.

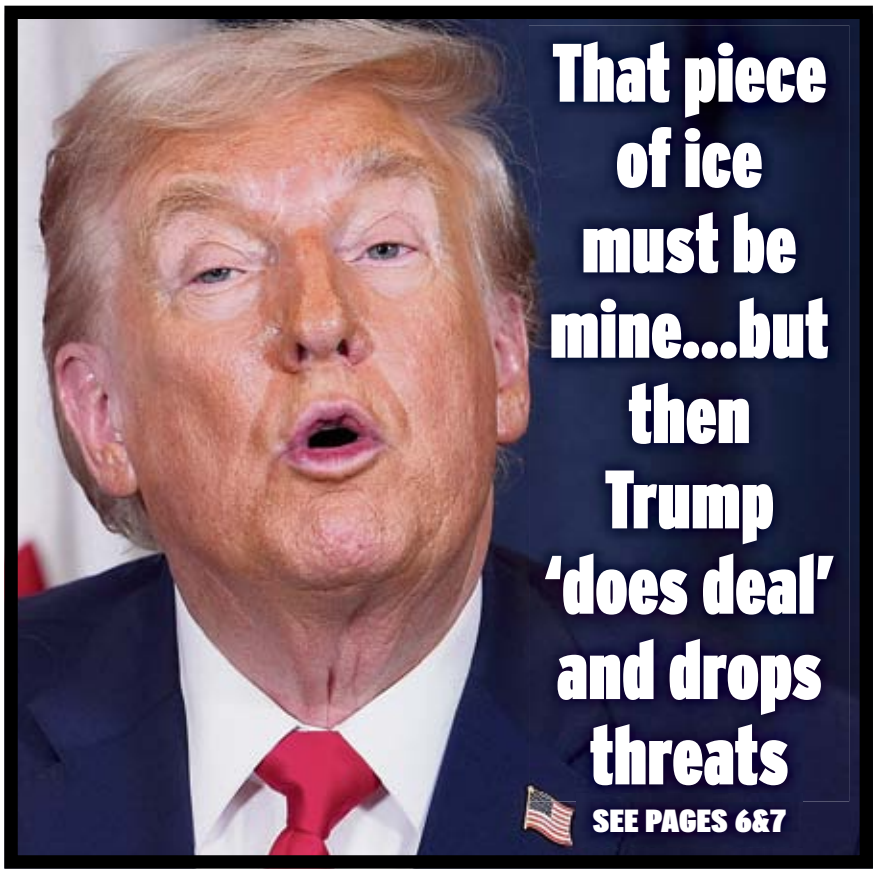
Tories said the Chancellor, *below*, is "shutting up shop" in the nation's high streets.

Meanwhile the Treasury admitted that tax relief to help landlords cope with giant increases in business rates will "slowly unwind" over the next three years.

There was anger as Ms Reeves ruled out support for shops, hotels and cafes – despite fears they too may shed thousands of jobs.

The Shadow Chancellor, Sir Mel Stride, said: "The Chancellor chose higher business rates

TURN TO PAGE 5



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Scooting off on tour!

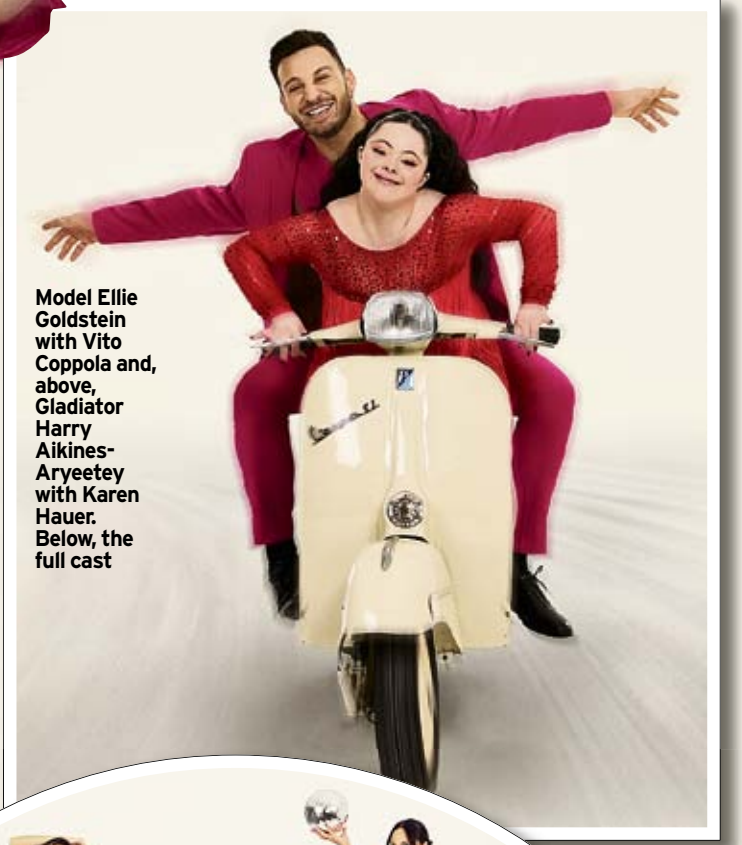
Strictly stars rev up for live dance shows

BY **MARK JEFFERIES**

STRICTLY Come Dancing stars set off for their live tour – on vintage Vespa scooters.

Seven pairs from the BBC series will take to the stage at Birmingham's Utilita arena tomorrow at the start of a 30-show tour. Reality TV star Vicky Pattinson, who will dance with Kai Widdrington, said: "It's a celebration of what your body is capable of."

Vicky Pattison and Kai Widdrington will take centre stage on the Strictly tour



Model Ellie Goldstein with Vito Coppola and, above, Gladiator Harry Aikines-Aryeetey with Karen Hauer. Below, the full cast

'It's a celebration of what your body is capable of'

Picture: JULIAN HAMILTON

‘Venables will murder again if he’s freed’

CHILD murderer Jon Venables will kill again if he is let out of prison, James Bulger’s heartbroken mum has warned.

Venables is set to face another Parole Board hearing, opening up the possibility he could be freed for a third time.

Denise Fergus, mother of murdered two-year-old James, said she faces a daily “nightmare” of not knowing her son’s killers’ new identities, which are protected by law.

And she wants anyone who breaches parole twice to be barred from being released.

Murderer Jon Venables at 10

Ms Fergus told Good Morning Britain: “I’m hoping they don’t release him.

“I’m hoping and praying they take into consideration everything he’s done. Murdering James and whatever he’s done after that.

“I’m hoping they realise that he is still a high risk to other kids. And I hope he never sees the light of day again.

“Because I know if he gets out – and I’ve said this time and time again – we will end up with another case like James.”

Venables, now 43, abducted, tortured and murdered James

BY **MICHAEL KNOWLES**

alongside Robert Thompson in Merseyside in 1993, when he was 10. He will have his parole case heard more than two years after his previous appeal.

Venables was released on licence in July 2001 but was recalled to prison in 2010 after indecent images of children were found on his computer.

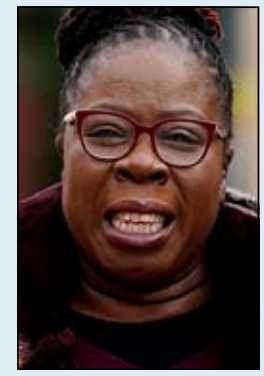
He was freed again, but jailed for a third time for possessing child porn.

Ms Fergus said she lives in fear over her son’s killers’ identities.

She added: “They probably know how many kids I’ve got. They probably know their ages, their names. How do I not know that – especially Thompson because he’s out – how do I not know that he has been standing next to one of my kids, my sons?”

She is struggling to get the Ministry of Justice to fight her case. She told GMB: “Over the years I’ve met so many justice secretaries. Every time I feel like I’m getting somewhere, they change jobs or they have to step down. We’re left having to start from the very bottom.”

Denise Fergus is fighting to keep her son James’s killer behind bars



MP Paulette Hamilton

UK kids’ health ‘a national scandal’

BY **DAVID WILLIAMSON**
Chief Political Commentator

BRITISH kids dying of “entirely preventable” diseases is a “national scandal”, MPs said.

Children have “some of the worst health outcomes in Europe” and Britain should be ashamed, their report added.

The Health and Social Care committee highlighted poor results for asthma, obesity, dentistry and mental health, amid a 43% crash in health visitor numbers since 2015 and falling vaccination take-up.

The report says in 2024 the UK recorded the highest number of measles cases since 2012 – there were 2,911 cases and one child died. The same year, 11 infants died from whooping cough.

Affluent

MPs warned that children in poor areas were over 10% less likely to have measles, mumps and rubella jabs compared with those in affluent ones.

They conclude: “The continuing decline in childhood vaccination levels since 2012 is a national disgrace; children should not be dying of entirely preventable diseases.”

MP Paulette Hamilton said it is a “source of shame” the Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health says Britain has among Europe’s worst health performance for young.

The government said it had put children “at the heart of our 10-year health plan with a range of initiatives from obesity to dentistry”.

‘Place brutes who hurt children on national register’

BY **MICHAEL KNOWLES**
Home Affairs Editor

AROUND 1,000 thugs who “harm and break the bones” of children could be added to a child abuse register every year, if campaigners are successful.

Paula Hudgell, the adoptive mum of Tony Hudgell, who was abused so badly as a baby by his parents that both his legs had to be amputated, is calling for a child-cruelty database.

It would copy the Sex Offenders Register and has the backing of the Express, which is campaigning for it.

Offenders would be forced to tell police if they change names, move home, get into new relationships and stay in a house for 12 hours or more with children.

Some offenders could even be forced to tell officers in advance about any planned contact with youngsters in a private setting.

Scrutiny

Campaigners had been hoping Labour would amend their Sentencing Bill, which is going through the House of Lords this week.

But they are now hoping it will be included in the Crime and Policing Bill. Ministers in private meetings have indicated they hope to make the change, it is claimed.

Around 900 to 1,000 offenders could be added to the register each year, said a Home Office official according to Shadow Solicitor General Helen Grant. Policy chiefs do not want to overwhelm the police by leaving them too many offenders to monitor, it is understood. But they are trying to close the loophole that allows child abusers to move homes, change their homes or form new relationships undetected. Ms Grant said: “Experience shows ex-offenders can move across county lines, change their names and disengage from services to avoid scrutiny. That makes detection harder and risk management even more challenging.

Paula Hudgell with her adoptive son Tony

“Mirroring the structure of the Sex Offenders Register for child cruelty offenders would go a long way towards fixing this, with mandatory notification requirements for offenders and monitoring and management by the police.”

Under Mrs Hudgell’s proposals, the database would be like that used in Clare’s Law, which allows women to check if a partner has a violent history.

This means parents could check if their new partners have a history of abusing children.

Mrs Hudgell said: “Sex offenders are absolute monsters. But so are people who harm children and break the bones of children.

“Why should they be treated any differently to a sex offender, if anybody wants to be that cruel to someone so small, like Tony?

“He was five weeks old. Everything was so tiny and they were able to twist and break and bend and punch a tiny, tiny baby.

“Why should they be treated less than a sex offender?

“If we can end up saving even one child, then it’s totally worth it.

“They could say about money. But when you think about how much Tony has cost the system with the prosecution, and prison, all his operations and his care for the rest of his life, it’s just extortionate.

“You can’t put a figure on a child’s life.”

‘Labour’s tax-and-spend agenda is costing jobs’

FROM PAGE ONE

over backing our high streets. Businesses couldn’t be clearer: Labour’s tax-and-spend agenda is already costing Britain jobs.”

Ms Reeves is also under pressure from Labour MPs to perform yet another U-turn amid fears that her tax increases will lead to more town centre premises being boarded up.

Liam Byrne, Labour chairman of the Commons business and trade committee, said tax rises “are strangling hospitality businesses” and Dame Meg Hillier, Labour head of the treasury committee, said: “Many pubs in my constituency are seeing eye-watering increases in business rates.”

Pub bosses face business rate rises of up to 63% when new property valuations come into effect on April 1, as the payment is calculated partly on the value of their premises.

A discount to help hospitality firms cope with the impact of the pandemic is also coming to an end.

The British Beer and Pub Association trade body warned the sector faced higher bills of £150million every year, risking 15,000 jobs.

Labour MPs have been barred from a number of venues, including The Marsh Inn in Ms Reeves’s constituency of Leeds West and Pudsey.

The Chancellor has announced a package of rate relief but Treasury minister Dan Tomlinson admitted tax relief for pubs would be “phased out”.

He said the government is “slowly unwinding it over the coming three years”, when he was summoned by Sir Mel to answer an urgent question in Parliament.

Ms Reeves last week promised further support for pubs but has yet to provide details.

Last night she appeared to rule out pleas to help other high street firms, despite Labour MPs warning of mass closures hitting town centres.

She said at the Davos economic summit: “The situation the pubs face is different from other parts of the hospitality sector”, adding: “We have the right plan, for our economy...to bring that growth and prosperity in all parts of the country that we need.”

But Allen Simpson, chief executive of trade body UKHospitality, said: “The entire hospitality sector faces the same cost challenges – from eye-watering business rates hikes to the soaring cost of employment. These are not challenges unique to pubs. Our hotels, restaurants and cafes...all face their business rates bills increasing by thousands, driven by the same large increases to rateable values affecting pubs.

“These businesses employ six in seven people in hospitality. The government has one chance to get this right. Without a package of support for the entire sector, I fear it will be too little, too late.”

Sir Mel warned: “Shops are facing bill increases of around 50%; restaurants more than 50%; hotels an eye-watering 100%-plus. Reeves’s brutal High Street Tax is the difference between businesses staying open and shutting up shop...across the country.”

Labour MP Rachael Maskell said: “Some little retail outlets are seeing their business rates rise by 93%, and they simply do not have the resilience to deal with it.”

Her colleague Toby Perkins urged the government to provide details of promised help, saying that many pubs “are trying to make accounting decisions right now”.

OPINION: PAGE 12

Rachel Reeves has yet to reveal help for pubs

EXPRESS VOTE

Is Rachel Reeves’ tax regime putting our high streets in peril?

YES: 0901 133 4440
NO: 0901 133 4441
Calls cost 50p plus network access charge

Yes text DXYES to 63333
No text DXNO to 63333
Texts cost 50p plus standard network rate

You must have the bill payer’s permission. Vote closes at midnight tonight. The Daily Express may contact you by post, SMS and/or email with offers, goods or services that may be of interest to you. To stop receiving SMS messages text ‘NSNOINFO’ to the originating number. SP: Spoke, 0333 202 3390.

Picture: JONATHAN BUCKMASTER

Tory Sir Mel Stride hit out at the impact of rate rises on pubs

AFTER delivering the biggest business rates shock in a generation, the Chancellor’s team has heavily briefed that a U-turn is coming – then refused to say what it is, who it will help, or when it will arrive.

Instead, her government is ducking questions, delaying decisions and hoping the backlash fades. I have news for the Chancellor: it won’t. People and businesses are angry.

Labour came into office without a plan, spent billions of pounds of taxpayers’ money on benefits, and is now forcing Britain’s businesses to foot the bill. That is not good enough.

At the Budget, the Chancellor chose higher business rates over backing our high streets. Hotels, restaurants, cafes, retailers and leisure businesses are facing huge increases, while Reeves signalled yesterday at Davos that only pubs might get help. Even that supposed U-turn has yet to be announced, let alone explained. The numbers are stark. Shops are facing bill increases of around 50%. Restaurants more than 50%. Hotels an eyewatering 100%-plus. Reeves’s brutal High Street Tax is the difference between businesses staying open and shutting up shop across the country.

Businesses couldn’t be clearer: Labour’s tax-and-spend agenda is already costing Britain jobs. When you punish employers, you punish workers – and working people are paying the price, as this week’s employment figures show.

Ministers claim transitional relief will soften the blow. The Office for Budget Responsibility says overall business rates receipts will rise by more than 10% next year alone. That is not relief, it is a tax grab on the businesses keeping high streets alive.

The government’s handling of pubs only deepens the chaos. Will any relief be permanent or temporary? Who will qualify? What about pubs with rooms, restaurants or mixed-use premises? Silence from the Treasury helps no one. In Parliament this week, I held this tone-deaf government to account for the damage to our high streets.

Only a Conservative government will reduce the benefits bill and permanently cut rates. Britain needs a full rates U-turn now – clarity, certainty and permanent cuts, not silence and sticking-plaster fixes.

If Labour gets this wrong, they will wipe out livelihoods and hollow out town centres across Britain. The stakes couldn’t be higher.

COMMENT

SIR MEL STRIDE
Shadow Chancellor

Inflation rises as households feel squeeze

BY **JONATHAN WALKER**

INFLATION has crept back up, with shoppers facing higher food and drink prices, in another blow to the Chancellor.

It rose to 3.4% in the 12 months to December, from 3.2% in November, official figures showed – the first uptick in five months. The government’s target is 2%.

Experts said they expect inflation to drop later in the year, but Harvir Dhillon, economist at the British Retail Consortium, warned households are “still feeling the squeeze”.

Products hit by large rises included soft drinks, butter, chocolate and nuts. Cigarettes were up 6.9%.

Chancellor Rachel Reeves pledged 2026 would be the “year Britain turns a corner”, adding: “My number one focus is to cut the cost of living.”

Shadow Chancellor Sir Mel Stride blamed the rise on “Labour’s economic mismanagement”.

Economists warned the Bank of England will be wary of major rate cuts.

Thomas Pugh, chief economist at RSM UK, said a potential interest rate cut in April “may well be the last one this year”.

1.5m more on ‘no need to work’ benefits

BY **ADAM TOMS**

THE number of people claiming health-related benefits with “no work requirements” has surged by 1.5 million since Labour came to power.

Some 4.2m are now on Universal Credit without needing employment – up from 2.7m in July 2024.

It comes after a rise in mental health claims, Department of Work and Pensions data shows.

Labour was warned the outlook is “bleak” after its backbenchers forced it to U-turn on planned cuts to sickness payouts last year.

Elliot Keck, campaigns director at the TaxPayers’ Alliance, said: “The future is bleak if politicians don’t urgently get a grip on the tragedy that is Britain’s escalating welfare bill.”

Prof Len Shackleton, of the Institute for Economic Affairs, said: “Permanently reducing the numbers on benefits would probably require legislation. We can see Labour backbenchers have no stomach for this.”

The DWP said: “This increase comes as people are moving off legacy benefits – a transition we inherited from the previous government.”

Musk rowed with O'Leary, right

Musk jibe 'has boosted sales for Ryanair'

BY **GRAINNE NI AODHA**

MICHAEL O'Leary says Elon Musk can insult him "every day" if it keeps boosting Ryanair's sales.

The budget airline's chief executive had rowed with the tech billionaire over whether Musk's Starlink system could add wifi to Ryanair flights.

After O'Leary said it was not feasible, Musk called him a "chimp" and asked his X followers if he should buy the Dublin-based firm.

O'Leary, 64, yesterday said: "If he wants to call me an idiot, he wouldn't be the first and he certainly won't be the last. But if it helps to boost Ryanair sales, you could insult me all day, every day."

He claimed the "spat" had driven a 2% to 3% rise in Ryanair ticket sales in just five days, adding: "I welcome the accusation that I'm a chimp...it's somewhat unfair on the chimp community."

O'Leary said that adding "terrific" Starlink's aerials to jets would add drag and increase fuel bills by £175m.

Tesla in snubs to police over driver details

BY **TRISTAN KIRK**

ELON Musk's Tesla car company has been convicted at least 18 times and ordered to pay more than £20,000 for repeatedly failing to co-operate with UK police.

The electric car giant has faced multiple criminal court proceedings over the past two years linked to road traffic offences.

In each case, when British police tried to track down the details of speeding Tesla drivers, their letters went unanswered and the forces ended up prosecuting the company itself. The latest conviction, which ended in a £1,000 fine plus £120 costs and £400 victim surcharge, was handed out by Merthyr Tydfil magistrates on January 6.

At least 18 convictions against Tesla Financial Services were identified since the start of 2024, including prosecutions brought by the Met Police, Hampshire Constabulary and Thames Valley Police.

U-TURN FOLLOWS PLEDGE NOT

Trump lifts his threat of tariffs after 'productive' talks with Nato over 'deal' for Greenland

BY **JONATHAN WALKER**
Whitehall Editor

DONALD Trump has dropped his threat to slap tariffs on countries including the UK that opposed his grab for Greenland.

The de-escalation of tensions followed what he called a "very productive meeting" with Nato chief Mark Rutte.

The US president announced on his Truth Social platform last night: "We have formed the framework of a future deal with respect to Greenland and, in fact, the entire Arctic Region."

He added: "This solution, if consummated, will be a great one for the USA, and all Nato nations. Based upon this understanding, I will not be imposing the tariffs that were scheduled to go into effect on February 1."

He later said the deal "gives us everything we needed to get", and that it "will be forever". It includes "security and minerals and anything else", he added.

Markets rose sharply on the back of the tariff announcement.

It came after Mr Trump dismissed speculation about his plan to take Greenland by force. He told the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland, ahead of his meeting with Mr Rutte: "We probably won't get anything unless I decide to use excessive strength and force, where we would be fairly unstoppable.

"But I won't do that...I don't have to use force, I don't want to use force, I won't use force. All the US is asking for is a place called Greenland. You can say yes, and we will be very appreciative. Or you can say no and we will remember."

He made it clear he would not abandon attempts to claim the territory, which is home to 56,000 people. He repeated claims that the US must own Greenland "for strategic national security and international security", highlighting its key location and said the US wanted to exploit rare earth minerals beneath the island.

Denmark's foreign minister Lars Rasmussen responded to the deal saying that the day ended better than it started.

Conservative leader Kemi Badenoch welcomed the tariffs U-turn, saying: "This will be a relief to businesses who are already facing so many challenges.

"It is also good to hear Trump rule out the use of force in Greenland. Greenland's

President Trump, right, holds talks with Nato Secretary General Mark Rutte

'I don't have to use force, I won't use force'

LIKE a horse whisperer who can pacify a boisterous stallion, Sir Keir Starmer used to cast himself as the European statesman who could talk frankly and cut deals with President Trump.

Now, the Labour leader has felt the wrath of the President for not backing his desire to take over Greenland.

Mr Trump now claims he has "formed the framework of a future deal" over not just Greenland but apparently the "entire Arctic region".

European states that had opposed a US takeover will now not be hit with the tariffs due on February 1.

Did he ever intend to clobber his allies this way?

Was it all political theatre to distract from domestic woes and force Nato to take his Arctic concerns seriously?

Who knows? But his relationship with Sir Keir will never be the same. Mr Trump

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TO 'USE FORCE' TO TAKE ISLAND

'We have formed the framework of a future deal with respect to Greenland and, in fact, the entire Arctic Region'

Trump tones down threats in Davos. Inset, PM in the Commons

ANALYSIS

DAVID WILLIAMSON
Chief Political Commentator

has kicked the PM where he knows it will hurt, denouncing his controversial decision to hand sovereignty of the Chagos Islands to Mauritius while paying a fortune every year to lease back a strategically important UK-US military base.

Sir Keir, whose premiership has looked as if it is dangling by a thread in recent months, gave vent to his frustrations during Prime Minister's Questions. He said the attack on the Chagos deal – which Mr Trump has described as an "act of great stupidity" – was intended to put "pressure on me and Britain in relation to my values and principles on the future of Greenland".

Labour now faces intense competition from the Greens and Sir Keir, who could be hit with a leadership challenge after the May elections, cannot afford to be seen as soft on Trump.

Labour MP Steve Witherden gave us a glimpse of what many in the party really think of the President, describing him as the "thug in the White House".

Mr Trump was in no mood for yielding on his demands for that "piece of ice" when he turned up at the gathering of world leaders in Davos. On several occasions he appeared to call Greenland "Iceland" in a speech which was an exercise in braggadocio. We should remember that his alpha performance was directed at his fellow Americans at least as much as any Europeans. With a YouGov net approval rating of -20, he is not the only party leader with a polling problem.

Sir Keir and the President still have something in common.

future must be decided by its people." Mr Trump's change of heart came after Sir Keir Starmer delivered an unprecedented attack on the US president and vowed not to be bullied out of supporting Greenland.

The Prime Minister insisted the future of Greenland could only be decided by its residents and the Kingdom of Denmark, which owns the Arctic island.

Sir Keir said the row was "splitting the world…with material consequences".

Mr Trump had threatened a 10% tariff on all goods imported to the US from countries, including the UK and European allies, who opposed his Greenland bid. The figure was to increase to 25% from June 1 until a deal was reached.

But at Prime Minister's Questions yesterday, Sir Keir told the Commons: "I will not yield – Britain will not yield – on our principles and values about the future of Greenland under threats of tariffs."

He has previously avoided confrontation with the US president despite the imposition of tariffs and criticism of the UK from Mr Trump's allies.

But his change of tone yesterday came after Mr Trump issued the latest tariff threats and also denounced as an "act of great stupidity" Labour's plan to hand the Chagos Islands to Mauritius and lease back a US-UK military base for more than £30billion over 100 years.

Sir Keir said the president had previously supported the Chagos handover, and accused Mr Trump of backtracking to put pressure on him over Greenland.

He told MPs: "President Trump deployed words on Chagos…that were different to his previous words of welcome and support. He deployed those words yesterday for the express purpose of putting pressure on me and Britain in relation to my values and principles on the future of Greenland.

"He wants me to yield on my position and I am not going to do so."

However, he stressed the importance of maintaining the alliance with the US in order to support Ukraine and deter further Russian aggression.

Denmark's prime minister Mette Frederiksen is to visit the UK for talks today.

Relations with the US have been strained since the UK and partners announced plans to step up defence of Greenland and surrounding areas in an effort to allay Mr Trump's concerns about security, which the president appeared to interpret as a hostile act.

Chancellor Rachel Reeves insisted the special relationship with the US is still alive despite differences over Greenland, saying: "There [isn't a] more special relationship on military, on strategic issues."

OPINION: PAGE 12

Reform's Nigel Farage and Tory leader Kemi Badenoch

Tory wets will seize party now Jenrick's gone, claims Farage

EXCLUSIVE
BY **CHRISTIAN CALGIE**

NIGEL Farage has said Robert Jenrick's defection will lead to a resurgence of the Tory wets who will force Kemi Badenoch into a U-turn on the ECHR.

The Reform leader forecast that Ms Badenoch's pledge to quit the European Convention on Human Rights will be "shifted to the back" of her to-do list after the departure of her shadow cabinet colleague.

Mr Jenrick resigned from Rishi Sunak's government over the issue and made it a key plank of his failed Tory 2024 leadership campaign.

Following his sacking and defection, a number of prominent centrist pro-EU Tories said they now have the opportunity to retake control of their party, and reject moves to the hard-Right.

Theresa May's former chief of staff Lord Barwell wrote: "As the populists on the right abandon ship for Reform, it becomes clearer by the day where the opportunity is for Kemi Badenoch – to lead a party of the moderate centre-Right."

Former Justice Secretary Robert Buckland told the Express he believed there was now room for the Conservatives to shift their policy away from leaving the ECHR to reforming it.

Mr Farage has warned those on the Right that Mr Jenrick's defection means the Reform is the only party that can be trusted to quit the ECHR.

On Monday, Ms Badenoch wrote to Tory MPs, insisting that wet Tory commentators had "misread" what Mr Jenrick's departure represented for the party, adding that his sacking was entirely about his character and not policy differences.

'It isn't too late' to axe Chagos Islands deal

BY **DAVID WILLIAMSON**

THERE is still time for the government to abandon the deal to give the Chagos Islands to Mauritius, experts have insisted.

Pressure is building on Parliament to stop the controversial move, which would see Britain hand over sovereignty, and then lease back the key Diego Garcia military base.

Former defence secretary Sir Gavin Williamson said: "The government still has time to see sense and stop this dangerous and damaging move to hand over our sovereign territory to a state that is influenced by the likes of China and Russia. The Prime Minister needs to make this move but he has to do it quickly, in all of our interests."

And Tory leader Kemi Badenoch said: "Why doesn't he just scrap this terrible deal and put the money into our Armed Forces?"

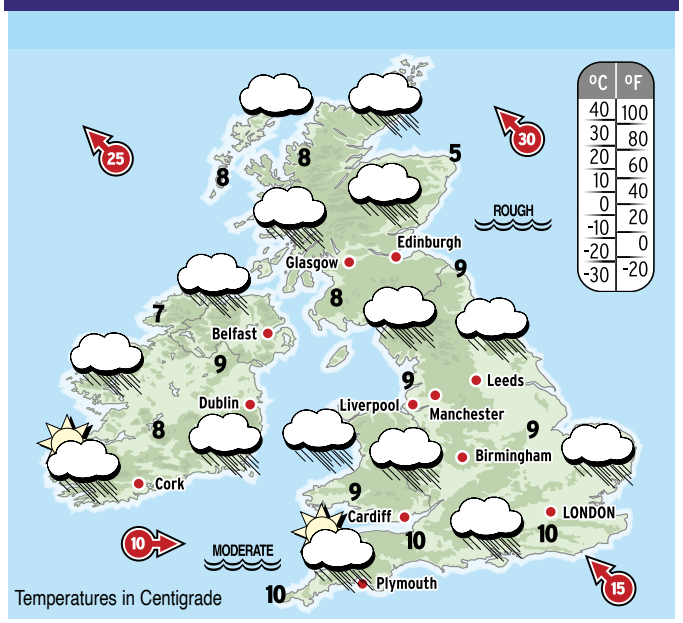
Penny Mordaunt, another ex-defence secretary, said: "It is within the power of Parliament to refuse to ratify this treaty."

Shadow Foreign Secretary Priti Patel said: "It isn't too late for the government to see sense, listen to our allies and change course."

The Foreign Office was contacted for comment.

DX1ST

WEATHER FORECAST



Today's summary: Rainy start, cloudy later

North West: Dull and wet with rain or drizzle, mainly light and patchy. Moderate north-westerly winds. High 9C (48F).

Northern Ireland: Cloudy with showers at first and light rain later. Moderate north-westerly winds. High 9C (48F).

Wales: Wet spells, turning clearer later. Gentle breezes throughout. Cool temperatures. High 9C (48F).

Midlands: Wet with drizzle or rain at times, mainly light in nature. Moderate north-westerly winds. High 9C (48F).

North East/Yorks: Dull and grey with outbreaks of light rain and drizzle. Light winds. High 8C (46F).

Scotland: Persistent wet conditions. Drier spells later. Strong winds, cooler in the evening. High 8C (46F).

East Anglia: Overcast and wet with patchy light rain or drizzle. Gentle southerly winds. High 9C (48F).

London/South East: Mainly cloudy with the chance of light showers. Moderate south-westerly winds. High 10C (50F).

South: Mostly cloudy with a scattering of light showers. Moderate northerly winds. High 10C (50F).

South West: Damp with patchy rain for a time. Sun and showers later. Gentle north-westerly winds. High 10C (50F).

Channel Isles: Bright with some sunshine, but also scattered light showers. Fresh westerly winds. High 10C (50F).

Sea: North Sea: Moderate. Irish Sea: Rough. Channel: Moderate.

UK OUTLOOK TOMORROW: Expect cool, breezy conditions with frequent rain showers. Winds easing later, turning mostly cloudy by night with occasional clear spells.

SIX-DAY FORECAST

Temperatures in Centigrade

	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED
	min max	min max	min max	min max	min max	min max
London	5 8	4 9	3 7	3 6	2 7	3 6
Belfast	5 7	4 7	3 6	3 5	1 4	2 4
Birmingham	4 8	3 7	1 6	2 5	1 5	1 4
Cardiff	5 9	4 8	2 7	3 6	2 7	2 6
Glasgow	4 8	2 7	1 6	1 5	0 5	0 4
Manchester	5 8	3 8	1 6	2 5	1 5	2 4
Newcastle	4 7	3 5	2 5	2 4	1 4	2 4
Norwich	4 8	3 7	2 5	2 5	2 5	2 5
Plymouth	6 9	6 9	4 8	6 8	4 8	5 8

Britain yesterday

24 hours to 5pm	SUN (hrs)	RAIN (ins)	TEMP (min)	TEMP (max)
Aberdeen	0.1	0.44	6	7
Aberporth	0.1	0.12	2	11
Alnwick	0.8	0.14	6	8
Belfast	0.1	0.11	5	8
Birmingham	0.0	0.39	4	9
B'mouth	0.0	0.77	5	10
Bristol	0.0	0.54	4	11
Cardiff	0.1	0.13	3	10
Durham	0.0	0.08	4	8
Edinburgh	0.4	0.11	4	7
Glasgow	1.8	0.16	5	7
Hull	0.3	0.23	4	8
Ipswich	0.0	0.32	5	8
Leeds	0.0	0.24	4	8
Lincoln	0.0	0.15	3	8
London	0.0	0.67	3	10
Manchester	0.0	0.13	3	10
Oxford	0.0	0.28	3	9
S'hampton	0.0	0.63	6	10
St Andrews	0.2	0.14	7	8

Britain Extremes: (24 hours to 11pm Tuesday)

Warmest: Gosport F'lands, 11c (52f).
Coldest: Tain Range, -4c (24f).
Wettest: Nantyglo, 1.10ins.
Sunniest: Wellesbourne, 4.0hrs.

Moon, sun and tides

MOON rises: 9.25am, sets: 9.02pm
SUN rises London: 7.52am, sets: 4.32pm
Manchester rises: 8.09am, sets: 4.32pm

First Quarter
26 January

HIGH TIDE

London B'ge	(3.53am), (4.12pm)
Liverpool	(1.01am), (1.15pm)
Greenock	(2.26am), (2.36pm)
Dover	(12.49am), (1.05pm)

Lighting-up times

Belfast	4.42pm-8.27am
Birmingham	4.35pm-8.02am
Bristol	4.42pm-8.00am
Glasgow	4.29pm-8.26am
London	4.32pm-7.51am
Manchester	4.32pm-8.07am
Newcastle	4.23pm-8.11am

Europe forecast

Today			Tomorrow		
Amsterdam	Fair	6C/43F	Amsterdam	Cloudy	6C/43F
Brussels	Fair	9C/48F	Brussels	Cloudy	10C/50F
Dublin	Showers	8C/46F	Dublin	Rain	8C/46F
Frankfurt	Fair	3C/37F	Frankfurt	Fair	4C/39F
Geneva	Rain	5C/41F	Geneva	Rain	5C/41F
Lisbon	Showers	14C/57F	Lisbon	Showers	12C/54F
Madrid	Rain	10C/50F	Madrid	Rain	8C/46F
Paris	Cloudy	11C/52F	Paris	Rain	9C/48F
Rome	Sunny	14C/57F	Rome	Thunder	14C/57F

Around the world yesterday

		C	F			C	F			C	F
Amsterdam	Cloudy	6	43	Hong Kong	Sunny	16	61	New York	Sunny	-7	19
Athens	Rain	12	54	Istanbul	Cloudy	7	45	Nice	Fair	13	55
Barcelona	Fair	14	57	Jersey	Rain	9	48	Nicosia	Fair	11	52
Berlin	Sunny	-1	30	Larnaca	Fair	15	59	Perth	Sunny	36	97
Budapest	Sunny	-4	25	Las Palmas	Sunny	20	68	Prague	Fair	-6	21
Cairo	Fair	21	70	Los Angeles	Sunny	18	64	Singapore	Fair	29	84
Cape Town	Sunny	27	81	Luxor	Sunny	12	54	Stockholm	Snow	-1	30
Casablanca	Cloudy	16	61	Malaga	Cloudy	12	54	Sydney	Sunny	24	75
Corfu	Rain	12	54	Mallorca	Fair	17	63	Tel Aviv	Fair	16	61
Dublin	Rain	6	43	Malta	Thndr	14	57	Tenerife	Sunny	21	70
Dubrovnik	Rain	8	46	Melbourne	Sunny	22	72	Toronto	Cloudy	-12	10
Faro	Rain	15	59	Miami	Sunny	23	73	Tunis	Shwrs	14	57
Florence	Fair	8	46	Moscow	Snow	-6	21	Venice	Sunny	4	39
Gibraltar	Rain	14	57	Nairobi	Sunny	26	79	Vienna	Fair	-5	23
Guernsey	Rain	10	50	New Delhi	Sunny	20	68	Warsaw	Sunny	-5	23

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PRINCE TAKES STAND

'Meghan's life

Emotional Harry's court revelation

BY **EMILY FERGUSON**
Royal Editor

PRINCE Harry fought back tears as he gave evidence at the High Court yesterday, describing recounting the highly personal stories written about him as a "recurring traumatic experience".

The Duke of Sussex is one of seven high-profile individuals bringing legal action against Associated Newspapers Ltd (ANL), which publishes the Daily Mail and the Mail on Sunday, over allegations of unlawful information gathering.

He described his life as being "open season" to be commercialised and ended his testimony by saying: "They (ANL) continue to come after me.

"They have made my wife's life an absolute misery, my Lord."

The duke's voice broke and he appeared emotional as he delivered the final sentence.

Bowing to the judge and leaving the witness box, Harry continued to seem upset, sniffling as he exited.

Frosty

During his two hours on the stand yesterday, the King's youngest son spoke repeatedly about being unable to complain about intrusive press coverage while he was a member of the Royal Family.

He also insisted none of his close friends would speak to the press.

Giving evidence, Harry appeared frustrated by lawyers acting on behalf of ANL, snapping: "My social circles were not leaky, I want to make that absolutely clear."

In a frosty exchange with Antony White KC, for ANL, the duke was asked why it had taken him so long to bring the actions against the publisher, with the 14 articles raised by Harry having been published between 2001 and 2013.

A key tenet of ANL's case is the claims have been brought too late, as the law indicates privacy claims such as this one should be brought within six years. Mr White suggested Harry could have launched the legal proceedings within this time frame, rather than waiting until October 2022.

Harry arriving at the High Court yesterday

Mr White said the duke "did not complain and no complaint was made on your behalf" about articles Harry was aware of.

He added: "That is because you believed, at the time that the articles were published, insofar as you saw them, that the information they contained came from legitimate sources."

The duke replied: "To a certain extent, but I would not have been able to complain about them anyway, because of the institution I was in."

This is something he reiterated in his witness statement for the trial, where he described having an "uneasy relationship" with the press following the death of his mother, Diana, Princess of Wales. He said: "As a member of the institution the policy was to 'never complain, never explain'."

Suspicious

Several of the stories complained about by Harry concern his former girlfriend Chelsy Davy, with the duke telling the court he was "really worried something bad was going to happen" when in that relationship.

He said in written evidence: "I was never suspicious of Chelsy in relation to stories like this, but I was of her friends. If I saw this story at the time, I would have been very frustrated and angry. I would have questioned how Associated found out this information.

"But I would have felt like I had to

TENSE, tetchy and teary describes Prince Harry's two hours on the witness stand yesterday.

It's an incredibly personal court case for him, with his evidence coming to a dramatic end yesterday when he described the idea that he shouldn't be entitled to a private life as "disgusting".

But the sheer emotion came when he spoke about the impact articles have had on the Duchess of Sussex, saying ANL have "made my wife's life an absolute misery".

His lip wobbled and his voice cracked as he recalled the toll the "thousands" of articles have had on him and his family.

Throughout his time on the stand his frustrations about the sheer number of articles about his private life threatened to boil over, with the judge having to interrupt Harry a couple of times to remind him that he needed to be simply answering the questions, not arguing his case.

But Harry found it hard not to speak up, saying he felt compelled to give as much context as possible, so that the judge could "have an idea of what it is like living in this world".

He was clearly exasperated that he wasn't being allowed to get his point across by opposing counsel. Harry's resentment for being born into an institution where he felt unable to challenge what was being said about him in national newspapers was clear.

And this case, and the others brought against the press, is about reclaiming control.

In his statement, he said his mistrust dates back to the coverage of his late mother, as well as the more recent treatment of his wife.

He explained that it has been difficult to trust people when private information appeared in the national press and said that he had "lost touch" with some friends because of his paranoia.

As a father and husband, Harry wants to see this case through, which is why his emotions came to the surface at the end of his testimony.

What started off as snappy, ill-tempered remarks ended with the Duke showing his softer side, as he discussed highly personal and private information that he claims was stolen from him.

ANALYSIS

EMILY FERGUSON
Royal Editor

CORRECTIONS AND COMPLAINTS

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was made a misery’

Pictures: JACOB KING/PA

Camilla greets Spice Girl Geri Halliwell-Horner

Queen and Geri unite over cancer charity

BY **EMILY FERGUSON**

THE QUEEN added a touch of spice to her visit to a cancer support charity by teaming up with Geri Halliwell-Horner.

Camilla arrived at Maggie’s Cheltenham centre in Gloucestershire yesterday to mark the organisation’s 30th anniversary.

Just over a month ago, the King, who was diagnosed with cancer in 2024, shared the good news that his schedule of treatment was being reduced in the new year.

Spice Girl Geri, 53, was invited as a supporter of Maggie’s.

The Queen recalled when she first met the late founder Maggie Keswick Jencks in the “swinging 60s, when I ventured into her beautiful and cool boutique, Annacat”.

She added: “I remember her then as being warm, funny and generous. And it was with those characteristics that she confronted her cancer diagnosis in 1988, at 47.

Queen on visit to Cheltenham

“She understood – for herself and for others – the importance of feeling in control, rather than a helpless victim. She knew how vital it is to have access to information about treatment.

“Above all, Maggie was convinced that people living with cancer crave a beautiful, comforting environment as they face the unknown.

“A place where they need not pretend to be fine, where they can receive expert support, sympathy and tea.

“And where laughter can come as naturally as tears, because sometimes that’s what’s wanted.”

accept this as the reality of my life.” He said one article in 2006, which claimed Ms Davy did not want the prince to join the Army, “created a massive strain” on the relationship, causing his then-girlfriend to “distrust all of her friends”.

After almost three hours of questioning from ANL’s barrister yesterday, his own barrister David Sherborne asked him how the proceedings had made him feel.

“It’s fundamentally wrong to put us through this again when all we wanted was an apology and accountability,” Harry said. “It’s a horrible experience.”

The duke said the case against ANL felt like a “recurring traumatic experience” and a “repeat of the past”, adding: “I have never believed my life is open season to be commercialised by these people.”

He said the “claim I don’t have any rights to any privacy is disgusting”.

A spokesman for Prince Harry said: “Today’s cross-examination was revealing in its weakness: assertive in tone, but collapsing immediately under scrutiny from Prince Harry.

“Associated couldn’t wait to get him off the stand, questioning him for just two hours and avoiding 10 of his 14 articles entirely.”

Prince Harry said: “Today we reminded the Mail Group who is on trial and why.”

Others involved in the case include Sir Elton John and actors Elizabeth Hurley and Sadie Frost.

The nine-week trial continues.

Meghan’s life was made a misery, said the duke

William to tour Saudi Arabia as UK celebrates ‘closer ties’

THE Prince of Wales will visit Saudi Arabia next month at the request of the UK government.

William’s trip comes as the countries “celebrate growing trade, energy and investment ties”, said Kensington Palace.

His first official visit there takes place from February 9 to 11, as the UK and Saudi Arabia prepare to mark a century of diplomatic relations next year.

The government has raised concerns over Saudi Arabia’s human rights record: in 2020 it sanctioned 20 Saudi nationals involved in the killing of journalist Jamal Khashoggi.

BY **ELLIE CRABBE**

When the PM first met Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman in 2024, critics accused Sir Keir Starmer of putting economic progress above human rights.

The Gulf nation has also faced accusations of “sportswashing” by investing in events such as football’s World Cup, which it will host in 2034, to improve its image.

The Chancellor and Foreign Secretary have recently toured Saudi Arabia. The Prince, *left*, last visited the region in 2023 to pay his condolences over the death of the ruler of Kuwait.

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Waspi battle for compensation backed by 100 cross-party MPs

ONE hundred MPs have demanded the Work and Pensions Secretary "reach the right decision" on compensation for Waspi women.

They say 1950s-born women "suffered a clear injustice" by the way state pension age changes were communicated.

Labour, Tory, DUP, Greens and SNP MPs joined dozens of Lib Dems to demand action.

Angela Madden, *inset*, chair of Women Against State Pension Inequality, said: "It's high time

BY **STEPH SPYRO**

ministers stopped stalling and started compensating Waspi women. The strength of support across the country is palpable."

Campaigners and MPs want Work and Pensions Secretary Pat McFadden MP to review the case by March 2. The government said in November it will reconsider a decision to not award payouts, and DWP ministers were yesterday grilled over why progress had been so slow.

Waspi women protest outside Parliament

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Kemi: I'll fight for veterans betrayed by Troubles vote

BY **DAVID WILLIAMSON**
Chief Political Commentator

KEMI Badenoch vowed to keep fighting to help veterans who were the targets of terrorists in Northern Ireland, after Labour voted to scrap measures protecting them from prosecution.

Ex-special forces heroes hit out at Labour's decision to scrap safeguards put in by the Tories that offered veterans immunity from Troubles-era civil cases against them.

It is feared veterans from the years of IRA terror may face politically motivated trials. Tory leader Mrs Badenoch, who met some before the vote, said: "Labour's plans won't just impact those veterans facing prosecution today, but also those thinking about joining our armed forces.

"Because why would anyone choose to serve and fight for their country if they don't think the government will have their backs afterwards? The Conservatives won't stop fighting Labour on this."

MPs last night voted 373 to 106 for legislation to remove immunity and let people pursue civil cases. It has to be approved in the Lords – and Tories hope to halt the measure there.

SAS veteran Bob Parr warned the government is doing the "polar opposite" of what was intended in the peace process, stating it will "reopen old wounds and delay reconciliation. The Prime Minister should step in and put an end to this nonsense."

Sir Keir Starmer said the Tories had "passed legislation which was struck down, leaving our veterans utterly exposed. We're putting in place proper measures to protect them." Labour is backing a law to save veterans from repeat probes.

Aldwin Wight, who led 22 SAS, said: "This vote tells veterans the war never ends. They did their duty for the state but the state won't draw a line for them. Labour has voted to turn Northern Ireland into a permanent courtroom and ...veterans into permanent suspects."

George Simm, ex-SAS regimental sergeant major, said: "The Good Friday Agreement was meant to end the conflict. This vote reopens it – not with bombs, but with lawyers."

Shadow Northern Ireland Secretary Alex Burghart warned: "Our veterans will once again be left vulnerable to historic and politically motivated claims."

The Express crusade Betrayal of Our Veterans aims to help end the legal witch hunt against Northern Ireland veterans.

EXPRESS CRUSADE BETRAYAL OF OUR VETERANS

Kemi Badenoch vowed to help veterans

Ex-contestant Paul Gorton

Pair can be big outside the castle, says Paul

BY **LAUREN MORRIS**

PAST Traitors star Paul Gorton has tipped Stephen Libby and Matthew Hyndman for success after the castle doors close on Friday.

Paul made it to the penultimate week of series two as a Traitor and has since done the rounds of shows such as Celebrity Antiques Road Trip and Celebrity Mastermind.

He will also be teaming up with Vernon Kay for new BBC daytime show Do You Know Your Place?

And he said that he can see Stephen and Matthew finding success in the content creator world. "Their Instagram, they're so aesthetically pleasing," he said.

Traumatic

"I can't see them going into presenting but in this day and age, the money and viewership is in the content creator world – look at people like Angry Ginge."

Paul added that he can also see them making documentaries about their experiences – Stephen struggled to accept being gay while growing up on the Isle of Lewes, while Matthew is an advocate of a ban on conversion therapy.

"They've both gone through very traumatic experiences through religion so maybe there's an angle there," he said.

"I want every success for all of them because if they can have half the ride that me and Harry Clark have had coming out of the show, then they're going to have the best couple of years."

Faithful Matthew, main, was banished before he could target Traitor Stephen

Regrets? I've had a few...over Stephen!

BY **NICOLA METHVEN**

Matthew wishes he'd gone 'all guns blazing' for Traitor

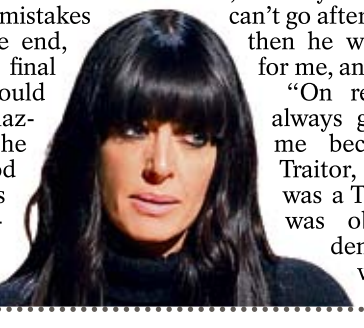
BANISHED Matthew Hyndman says he wishes he had gone "all guns blazing" for Traitor Stephen Libby while he had the chance.

And the Faithful regrets not working harder to persuade his main adversary James Baker to stop targeting him and team up against Stephen, currently running away with the competition alongside fellow Traitor Rachel Duffy.

Last night creative director Matthew, 35, became the latest in a long line of Faithfuls to get their marching orders at the Round Table, leaving host Claudia Winkleman fuming.

She told them: "Faithful, what are you thinking? The Traitors will murder one of you tonight. I'm speechless." Speaking after his exit, Matthew admitted he was gutted to have not been chosen as a Traitor.

"There are a few mistakes that I made near the end, particularly at the final Round Table. I should have gone all guns blazing against Stephen," he sighed. "I understood that by the Traitors giving James the dagger, they would have to vote for me because of the numbers for it to work, and my initial instinct was I can't go after Stephen, because then he will definitely vote for me, and then I'm gone.



Host Claudia is miffed

"On reflection, he was always going to vote for me because he was a Traitor, and I thought he was a Traitor." He said it was obvious that gardener James, 38, who had suspected him from day one, was going to vote for him.

"If someone doesn't like me, I'm not going to beg them to be my friend – but in the game of The Traitors you have to kind of do that.

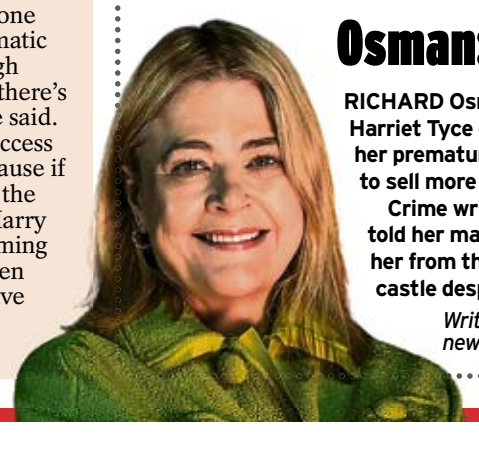
"When James got the dagger, I should have desperately tried to get to him and say, 'Look, Stephen is a Traitor, he's going to vote for me."

He added: "I should have tried to convince James, but I just didn't."

Matthew was banished with five votes, including Stephen, 32, and Rachel, 41. James later wept: "That's me f***ed... probably deservedly so."

Stephen and Rachel also faced a tricky decision over who to murder. Jack Butler earned immunity, while Faraaz Noor has flagged up Rachel as a Traitor.

Osman: Crime writer Harriet plotted her own exit very cleverly



Writer Harriet has a new book coming out

RICHARD Osman believes Harriet Tyce cleverly planned her premature Traitors exit to sell more books.

Crime writer Harriet, 53, told her mates to banish her from the Scottish castle despite being one of the early favourites to win. Thursday Murder Club author Richard said on his The Rest Is Entertainment podcast the move was a stroke of genius.

He said: "Great novelist, has a book coming out, has a backlist as well. Harriet is in there – she wants to sell books. I think she loves The Traitors, but she wants to sell books." Former barrister Harriet, from London, used her skills to suspect Rachel Duffy and dramatically called her out before it was later confirmed that she and Stephen Libby are Traitors. Richard said: "She must have thought, 'they are going to have to show this bit so what if my question to the Traitors reveals the fact that I'm a crime novelist?' I would have done exactly the same thing. Very, very clever."

DAILY EXPRESS

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Labour must call time on taxes targeting our pubs

PUBS which have been a source of pride for generations are being wiped out by Labour's tax raids.

The disclosure that years of tax rises await will dismay landlords who have fought to keep pubs in business but face an array of punishing costs.

Communities are in danger of losing precious hubs and the livelihoods of staff are at stake.

Labour should listen to one of their own, with former Chief Secretary to the Treasury Liam Byrne warning that tax hikes are "strangling hospitality businesses on the high street".

It does not have to be this way.

Chancellor Rachel Reeves's botched Budget has had disastrous consequences for many town centre businesses, which will see their tax bills soar.

One of the great reasons to come to the UK on holiday is to visit our legendary pubs and dine in our excellent restaurants.

But the Treasury seems intent on pushing well-loved institutions out of business.

When the Beer and Pub Association warns of higher bills of £150million a year, with 15,000 jobs at risk, government should listen.

It would be an economic and cultural catastrophe to push venues out of business – if Labour's legacy is the death of the local then the party will perish.

Cool heads on Greenland

EUROPE should continue to play it cool as President Trump pursues his ambition to get his way on Greenland. In a freewheeling speech in Davos, where billionaires rub shoulders with statesmen, he doubled-down on his determination to gain control of "a piece of ice, cold and poorly located, that can play a vital role in world peace and world protection".

But hours later, after meeting with Nato secretary general Mark Rutte, he dropped his threat to impose tariffs on Britain and seven other countries until they granted his wish to make Greenland part of the United States.

It proves western nations should not panic every time the US President tries a new gambit. Instead we should invest in the people and equipment needed to deter our foes. If it is clear the continent is not freeloading, then Mr Trump is more likely to listen.

He is in no doubt about how he wants to shape the world. But Britain also needs just as clear an understanding of both our national interests and our vulnerabilities.

We must display true determination to address our weaknesses and make the most of our strengths.

Reliving Fab memories

BEATLES fans have a new reason to come together. Memory researchers at the University of Wolverhampton want to hear from people who saw the Fab Four in concert.

They hope to discover how sensations can trigger recollections of the groundbreaking pop band.

The Liverpool quartet were at the vanguard of a musical revolution, the like of which has not been seen since.

We should not miss the chance to record the memories of people who saw the Beatles in their extraordinary live heyday.

Chinese embassy could be Labour's costliest error yet

Bow to China Lose Forever
UK Taxpayer will pay for Our Embassy
Over £3,000,000 per year Police Spending
Mega Embassy Blackhole
CHINESE EMBASSY
KEEP OUT

Protesters rally against plans to create a new Chinese mega-embassy in London

Esther Krakue
Daily Express columnist

LABOUR'S decision to approve the largest Chinese embassy ever built in Europe, directly beside the City of London, is being defended as grown-up diplomacy. Apparently, this is what serious countries do, because Britain can no longer "afford to be precious about who it does business with".

It would be more convincing if the building in question were not sitting next to some of the most sensitive financial and communications infrastructure in the country, and if the partner involved didn't have a long and well-documented record of espionage, coercion and industrial sabotage.

But apparently that doesn't matter. The government still expects us to believe that all risks and security concerns have been taken into account, even as MI5 is warning parliamentary staff about Chinese attempts to recruit people with access to sensitive material, and only weeks after the collapse of the Chinese spying case.

This is the same government that has already clocked up more than a dozen U-turns and broken election promises since coming to power, which is, apparently, meant to project a picture of competence. So you'll forgive my scepticism.

Keir Starmer is clearly convinced that closer ties with Beijing are necessary. There is a lot of talk about trade opportunities, and a visit to China in the coming weeks, which would make him the first British prime minister to go there since Theresa May.

THE LINE from Downing Street is that this is about "resetting" relations and not being left behind while everyone else cuts deals. That's fine, but we're not coming to the table from a position of strength. British industry has been hollowed out by decades of offshoring and growing dependence on other countries for things we used to make ourselves, a trend accelerated by successive governments' addiction to cheap Chinese goods.

Our remaining steel industry has been undercut, parliamentary workers have been targeted for bribery, and intellectual property theft has become routine. Against this backdrop, it's not hard to see where Labour's sales pitch falls apart.

What really turns this from a questionable judgment call into something more serious is what it is already doing to Britain's relationship with the US. Back in November, four congressmen from Nebraska wrote to the US Treasury, warning that the Royal Mint Court site could expose critical fibre-optic infrastructure used by American insurers and financial services firms whose systems route data through London.

One of them was blunt enough to say that Britain may choose to take risks with its own national security – but should not do so in a way that affects America.

This wasn't some discreet diplomatic nudge. It was US politicians saying out loud that what Britain does now has consequences on their side of the Atlantic. That should have landed heavily in Westminster.

Instead, the reaction has been a familiar mix of shrugging and vague reassurance, as if the Americans are being dramatic rather than responding to a problem we have created. No serious government would react calmly if another country approved a foreign intelligence hub next to its financial centre and suggested everyone simply trust the process.

For years, British politicians have spoken reverently about the "special relationship" while assuming that it will look after itself. The reality is Washington doesn't maintain alliances for sentimental reasons. It does so because they serve its interests and because they are safe.

When members of Congress start publicly questioning whether the UK is creating avoidable vulnerabilities in shared systems, that should prompt some honesty about who is really undermining the relationship.

There is, to be fair, one argument in the government's favour. Because British contractors will be involved in the construction, it is plausible that government actors will have visibility over the building process and its technical layout.

BUT THE embassy decision fits into a broader pattern of legal tidiness and diplomatic signalling taking priority over hard security judgment. It may not prove catastrophic, but it reinforces the impression this government is willing to take significant risks with little regard for broader implications.

If the price of chasing trade deals and foreign visits is that allies begin to see Britain as unreliable on security, that is not pragmatism. It is short-term thinking dressed up as maturity. And, as usual, Britain will be paying the price.

'The government has clocked up more than a dozen U-turns'

VIRGINIA BLACKBURN

"A gentleman is simply a patient wolf."
Lana Turner

MY CHAMPAGNE GLASS IS ALWAYS HALF FULL

Email me at virginia.blackburn@reachplc.com

Jeers not cheers at royal rovers' return

IT'S NOW looking increasingly likely that Harry and Meghan will return to the UK, at least for temporary visits (of course Harry's here at the moment, pursuing one of his interminable court cases). Their security is being reinstalled, and, presumably bracing themselves for an onslaught, the Prince and Princess of Wales have hired Liza Ravenscroft, a PR with experience in crisis management.

Is this bad news for the monarchy? Well no. What all this seems to be ignoring is that the rest of us have well and truly got the measure of the Montecito duo and can't stand the sight of them. The pair were given everything this country has to offer and threw it all back in our face.

And given all they have said about Britain, why on earth do they want to return? Is it about family solidarity? Give me a break: this is a woman who has an estranged and strained relationship with her own ailing father despite the fact he's in his 80s and has had a leg amputated. Has Harry suddenly rediscovered his love for the country that nourished him so protectively and forgave him all manner of indiscretion because we never forgot the little boy who'd lost his mum? I'm guessing not.

However many pots of jam Meghan has or has not managed to flog, this seems to me like it's all about money. And that means reminding everyone that not only are they still members of the Royal Family but that, unbelievably, their children are sixth and seventh in line to the throne.

All the drama that surrounds them is constantly compared to the mercifully quieter existence of William and Catherine, but which of the two couples does this country genuinely respect? The people who whinge constantly about their gilded existence or those people who get out there in all weathers to perform their duties day after day after day?

Would you curtsy to Meghan? Nothing on earth would induce me to do so but I might well to her sister-in-law. It has already happened that Hazza 'n' Megs have been booed out in public and chances are that this country, utterly sick to the stomach of the two of them, will not be very welcoming on their potential return.

And since Harry is constantly going on about his mother, perhaps he might take heed of the one lesson of her life that is often overlooked in the wake of her tragic, fatal accident.

You can't take on the Royal Family and win.

TONY Blair is to join President Trump's Board of Peace, the body that will run Gaza, while President Putin has also been invited. Satire has taken over from real life, no?

Picture: JD WILLIAMS

Five friends with benefits for Carol

CAROL Vorderman, 65, has said she loves being called a MILF; good for her. She has also said she has five "special" friends. It brings to mind something Liza Minnelli once said: "I'd like to have three boyfriends. I'd love a wonderful, very erudite older man who has quite a bit of money.

"Then I'd love to have a 40-year-old boyfriend, who's just filled with energy, and passion. And then I would like a lovely young man that I see twice a week and I don't know his name."

HUGH Bonneville says that he "feels blessed", with a "new life" following his divorce a couple of years ago. I wonder if his ex-wife Lulu Williams feels the same.

No defence for stupidity of Starmer

PRESIDENT Trump has condemned Keir Starmer's "great stupidity" in giving away the Chagos Islands and he's absolutely right. Firstly, it's strategically important: there's a US military base there, which Starmer is giving to an ally of China.

Now the islanders themselves, who oppose the deal, are appealing to The Donald for help, there is serious discomfort within Labour ranks and if all that were not enough, if the deal is done we have to pay over £30billion to lease back land we already own. That £30bn, which we do not have, could go on defence spending. What fantasy land do people in government inhabit? In the name of sanity, stop this ludicrous deal now.

HEARTFELT good wishes to Will Reeve and Amanda Dubin, who have just got married in Miami. Will is the son of the late, great Christopher Reeve who, as a child, not only had to cope with his fabulous father being paralysed for nine years, but just 18 months after his death, Will lost his mother Dana too. He was 13.

May he now be granted the happy family life that was so cruelly taken from him when he was so young and may sprogs a-plenty soon be on their way.

Advice worth weighting for

THE Channel 5 show The 1970s Diet has unearthed the reason people were a lot slimmer 50 years ago: they ate three meals a day rather than constantly snacking and consumed less food. In other news, bears are revealed to perform their bodily functions in the woods...

NO END TO ANTISEMITISM DESPITE THE HORRORS OF THE HOLOCAUST

IN MY American childhood, my family was close friends with a Holocaust survivor, an immensely distinguished man who became the Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences at the University of Illinois.

At the outbreak of the Second World War, his Dutch Jewish extended family numbered 36 – two of whom survived. I honestly thought that the horror of the Holocaust would bring an end to antisemitism once people realised where it ended up. I was totally wrong.

Unbelievably, we're living in a country where Jewish fans are not allowed to attend football matches, where Jewish MPs are banned from visiting schools, where we allow marches to take place supporting terrorists who want to wipe out Jews and as my colleague and friend Esther McVey pointed out, the number of schools commemorating Holocaust Memorial Day has fallen sharply.

The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing. There are millions of good men and women here. It's time for us to stand up for the Jewish community – and fast.

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ON THE MONEY

by **Katie Elliott**

Any questions? Please email me at katie.elliott@reachplc.com

Don't miss out on key tax perk

IF YOU'RE married and have a partner with an annual income lower than £12,570, you could be missing out on a tax perk worth hundreds per year.

While marriage isn't supposed to be sold on the basis of financial benefits, it does come with an awful lot of tax advantages, and the Marriage Allowance is one of the easiest to claim.

Yet, millions of eligible couples are thought to be foregoing it every year.

The Marriage Allowance allows the lower-earning partner to transfer part of their unused personal allowance to their spouse or civil partner, reducing the other partner's tax bill by up to £252 a year. To qualify, one person must earn below the personal allowance threshold, while the other must be a basic-rate taxpayer earning under £50,270 a year. Higher-rate taxpayers do not qualify.

If you meet the criteria, the lower earner can transfer up to £1,260 of their allowance to their partner. Find out how much you could save as a couple using the Marriage Allowance calculator on the government website.

One of the biggest missed opportunities is the allowance can be backdated. Couples can claim for up to four previous tax years, provided they met the eligibility rules at that time. That means some households could be sitting on a refund worth over £1,000. If both of you have no income other than wages, the person who earns the least should make the claim.

However, if either partner receives additional income, such as savings interest or dividends, it may be worth checking who should apply. You can call the Income Tax helpline on 0300 200 3300 if you're unsure. You can apply through HMRC's online service, and it usually takes just a few minutes.

You can also apply by filling out a self-assessment tax return. Any repayment is typically paid directly to the higher earner. If your partner has died since April 5, 2021, you might still be able to make a claim. In these cases, the person responsible for managing the deceased partner's tax affairs will need to contact HMRC by phone.

Once set up, the allowance usually renews each year, but it's still worth checking regularly, particularly if income levels fluctuate.

If the lower earner starts earning above the allowance threshold or the higher earner moves into the higher-rate tax band, the benefit can be withdrawn and may need to be repaid. While the allowance is unlikely to transform your finances, it is a relatively simple way to legally cut your tax bill. For many, it's money waiting to be claimed.

DEAL OF THE WEEK

NEW Asda online grocery shoppers can save £55 across four £60-plus shops. Register online, opt into marketing and use the emailed code. The offer ends on January 31 or after 23,000 redemptions.

WHEN you have a birthday, a host of shops and restaurants want in on the celebrations, offering a growing list of freebies and discounts to lure you through the door. From free coffees and cakes to meals and vouchers, here's a round-up.

Kicking off with coffee shops, if you have the Cafe Nero app, you can claim a free slice of cake on your birthday (or in the 14 days after it). Costa Coffee and Gail's Bakery offer similar perks, with app users gifted treats.

Moving on to restaurants, those partial to Italian cuisine can get a free bottle of prosecco on their birthday at Prezzo, or two desserts, if they spend a minimum of £25. Sign up for the Prezzo newsletter to qualify.

Zizzi and Harvester give people free main meals on their birthday, as long as one other main meal is purchased. Sign up for the Zizzi's Zillionaires' Club loyalty scheme and Harvester's newsletter to qualify. Pizza Express offers app users a free dessert, pizza or bottle of wine, depending on their loyalty tier, if they spend at least £10.

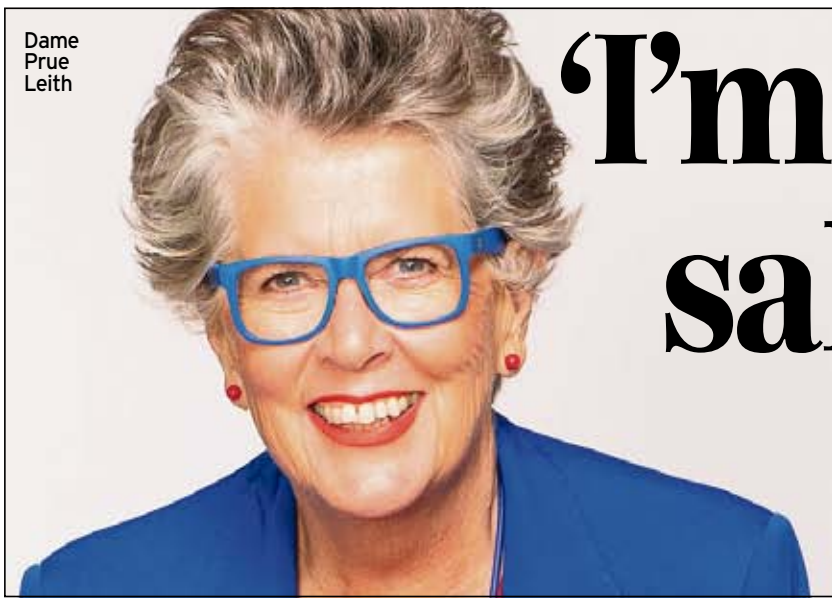
Supermarkets are also gifting a few nice freebies.

M&S shoppers with the Sparks app can pick up a free boxed cake or pack of grapes, while Lidl Plus loyalty app users can bag a free doughnut from its bakery section.

You can also get free doughnuts at Greggs and Krispy Kreme if you download their reward apps.

The Body Shop and Hotel Chocolat usually offer a £5 discount to loyalty scheme users on their birthday, while shoppers at Rituals can enjoy a free £12 product if they sign up for the free My Rituals club and buy at least one other product.

Boots offers Advantage Card users double points on their birthdays, while Superdrug's Health and Beauty Card shoppers are rewarded with an undisclosed surprise too.


Dame Prue Leith

‘I’m 86 for goodness sake’...Dame Prue quits Bake Off

BY **GEMMA JONES**

DAME Prue Leith has confirmed that she is stepping down as a judge on Channel 4’s The Great British Bake Off.

Dame Prue, who turns 86 next month, said she has “genuinely loved” working on the programme for the past nine series.

She has judged more than 400 challenges alongside Paul Hollywood, since 2017, when the popular baking show moved from the BBC to Channel 4.

She took over the judging job from Dame Mary Berry, who left in 2016. Alison Hammond and Noel Fielding are the current Bake Off presenters. Dame Prue also worked with their predecessors Sandi Toksvig and Matt Lucas.

Prue has a cuppa with Paul, and hosts Alison and Noel

She said in a statement yesterday: “Bake Off has been a fabulous part of my life for the last nine years. I have genuinely loved it and I’m sure I’ll miss working with my fellow judge Paul, Alison and Noel and the teams at Love Productions and Channel 4.”

The South African-born writer and broadcaster said: “But now feels like the right time to step back (I’m 86 for goodness sake!) There’s so much I’d like to do, not least spend summers enjoying my garden.

“Whoever joins the team, I’m sure they’ll love it as much as I have. I feel very lucky to have been part of it.”

Channel 4 chief content officer Ian Katz said: “Prue Leith has been a joyous presence in the tent, pairing absolute culinary authority with great generosity and empathy for the bakers. We are grateful for her passion, her wit, her ineffable style, and all the summers she spent in the tent. She leaves an indelible mark on the show and all its bakers.

“We will miss her wry, gentle judgment but look forward to working with her on new projects.”

The next series of The Great British Bake Off will air later this year and a new judge will be announced in due course.

Love Productions, which produces the show, said: “Huge thanks to Prue, who has been a brilliant judge on Bake Off and a much loved presence in the tent for nearly a decade.

“From her genuine expertise and encouragement of the bakers to her ability to drop innocent innuendos that reduce the entire tent (and the audience at home) to tears of laughter, Prue will always have a piece of Bake Off’s heart.”

Son charged with mum’s murder in idyllic village

A SON has been charged with murdering his mother after she was stabbed to death in her home.

Housekeeper Gilly Livie, 68, was found with serious injuries by police and paramedics at her thatched cottage in the idyllic village of Cheriton, Hants, two weeks ago.

She was pronounced dead at the scene and a postmortem found she died from a stab wound to the neck.

Her son Daniel, 39, was also found at the cottage and was taken to hospital with serious injuries, Hampshire Constabulary said.

Daniel Livie, from Alton, Hants, was arrested in hospital on Monday and taken into police custody.

He appeared before Portsmouth magistrates yesterday charged with his mother’s murder and making threat to kill against a man the day before she was found.

He was remanded in custody and is due to appear at Winchester crown court tomorrow.

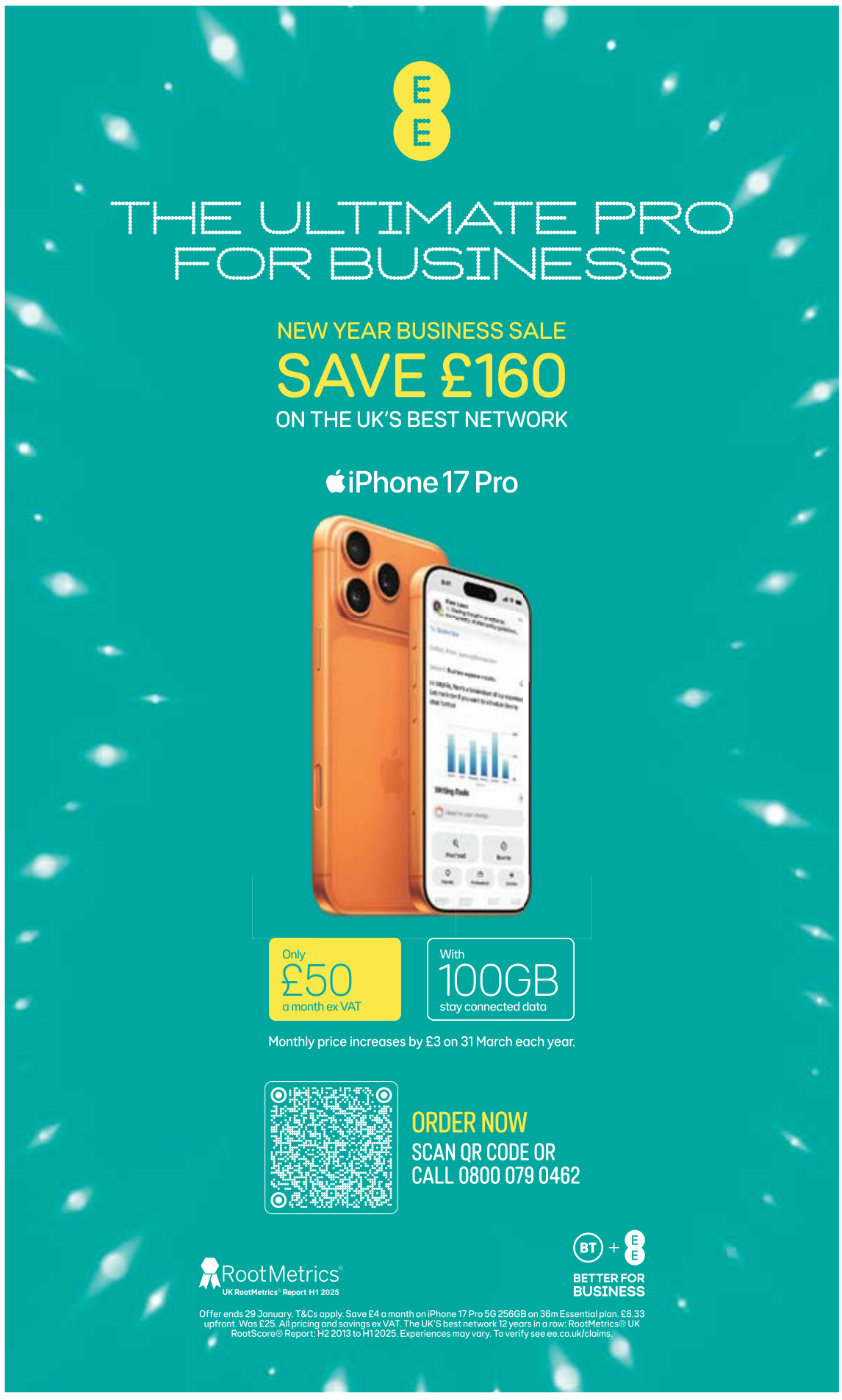
● Two boys aged 15 and 16 have been held on suspicion of murder after a teenager was found stabbed in woodland.

The 15-year-old victim was pronounced dead at the scene near Stoke Park, in Guildford, Surrey, after emergency services were called on Monday evening.

His family has been told but the victim had not been publicly identified last night.

Police called for witnesses to come forward “as a matter of urgency”.

BY **CHARLIE BRADLEY**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Police to get migrant data amid huge public unrest

BY **MICHAEL KNOWLES**
Home Affairs Editor

Sex offender migrant Hadush Kebatu, left, and protest against asylum seekers being put up at taxpayers' expense in Essex's Bell Hotel

POLICE are to be given more details about Channel migrants being moved into asylum accommodation amid fears over rises in crime, anti-social behaviour and community cohesion.

The Home Office has revealed that forces will be handed extra information to ease councils' anxiety.

A total of 36,273 migrants are staying in taxpayer-funded hotel rooms, 13% up on June's 32,041, while 66,232 are in communities. Officials say the number in hotels is set to fall.

Dr Rannia Leontaridi, Home Office asylum group director general, said: "One of the things we are discussing is the case of public protection.

"We're putting some work in place jointly with local authorities to ensure police forces have information...on the type of individuals that exist in their authority."

Epping Forest District Council raised concerns over anti-social behaviour during a legal battle with the Home Office as part of its bid to close The Bell Hotel – the scene of several anti-immigration protests.

That followed the jailing for a year of Hadush Kebatu. He had sexually assaulted a girl aged 14 and a woman just days after reaching the UK by boat. The Ethiopian's arrest sparked protests and highlighted fears over asylum seekers being moved into areas, often with very little notice.

Kebatu told the girl he wanted to "have a baby" with her and tried to kiss her, his trial was told. He also tried to kiss the woman. But he was mistakenly released from prison in October before being recaptured and deported to Ethiopia.

Home Office Second Permanent Secretary Simon Ridley told MPs on the Commons public accounts committee that the ministry is trying to improve relations with local councils.

He added: "Over the last two years we have increased the amount of information that we can share.

"It is probably fair to say that local authorities want us to share more information more rapidly, particularly about individuals as they move between different parts of our accommodation. It is going to be an ongoing thing that we build up over time. There were some issues with data sharing that we need to manage."

The Home Office said 110,051 migrants claimed asylum in the 12 months to last September – 13% higher in a year – fuelled by surges in Channel migrants and in foreign nationals seeking refuge after arriving on work, study or visitor visas.

Mr Ridley added: "The next published figure will show a reduction in the numbers in hotels."

Man denies sex assault at asylum hotel

BY **CHARLIE BRADLEY**

AN Ethiopian asylum seeker has denied sexually assaulting a female staff member at his migrant hotel.

Melaku Gebresembet, 23, allegedly groped the hotel worker on her left breast.

He had been touching staff inappropriately on their faces for a week before the "escalation", a court was told.

The alleged victim said she was "frightened" by the incident, and had been asking Gebresembet to leave her alone all week.

She had been trying to push [him] out of the office, when she was assaulted, it is alleged.

Gebresembet told Southampton magistrates court he "put his arm up to stop her from grabbing him" in the incident at Highfield House Hotel in the city on Friday.

He will remain in custody with a trial date set for April 6, 2027, at Southampton crown court.

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Victoria's wedding dance 'wooden not sleazy' says guest

BY **TOM BRYANT**

A GUEST at Brooklyn Beckham's wedding has defended mum Victoria from her son's allegations of dirty dancing, saying: "She was a bit wooden, but not sleazy."

But the partygoer said they found her dancing antics cringe-worthy at Brooklyn and Nicola Peltz's reception.

They said: "It was inappropriate but only in the sense that she appeared to be the centre of attention when it should have been about the bride instead.

"There was no grinding. But it was a bit of a stiff, awkward performance."

Brooklyn, 26, caused a sensation on Monday after accusing Victoria of hijacking his first dance at the 2022 nuptials.

He said: "She danced very inappropriately on me in front of everyone. I've never felt more uncomfortable or humiliated in my entire life."

Brooklyn's comments have led to Victoria being ridiculed on social media. There has even been speculation the mum of four was even "grinding" on her son.

Stavros Agapiou, who attended the Florida wedding party with Fat Tony who was DJing, backed up Brooklyn's account.

In a now-deleted post on social media, Stavros said: "He's telling the truth." But later added: "Good on him for finally speaking out!"

Last night Fat Tony jokingly compared Victoria's wedding dance to an embarrassing scene from BBC sitcom Motherland.

Bombshell

In the show, Amanda – played by Lucy Punch – dances to the Lil' Kleine and Ronnie Flex track Drank & Drugs in front of her stunned school mum friends.

Fat Tony shared a clip of this dance, adding: "Actual video footage, it's true I was there!"

Brooklyn and Nicola's lavish wedding in Florida was attended by 500 guests.

On his bombshell social media statement, he said: "Marc Anthony called me to the stage, where in the schedule was planned to be my romantic dance with my wife but instead my mum was waiting to dance with me instead."

He added: "We wanted to renew our vows so we could create new memories of our wedding day that bring us joy and happiness, not anxiety and embarrassment."

The guests had to hand in their phones so they were not able to film the event.

Only one video of the dance, filmed by the official videographer, is believed to exist.

It is thought to be in Brooklyn's possession but insiders says it is unlikely he will release it.

Last night Brooklyn unveiled a huge new tattoo of his wife's eyes on his neck. There are also coordinates that appear to show the Portland Hospital in London where he was born.

Sources close to the Beckhams have denied there was anything inappropriate or cringe-worthy about Victoria's dancing. But a guest said: "It did rather feel like the Beckham show. Marc Anthony had been praising Victoria in between songs, and then you had her go up on the dance floor for this moment."

They added: "It was a bit much, and Nicola didn't appear happy."

Brooklyn released his incendiary statement after being left furious on Sunday by media reports.

One story accused Nicola of driving the feud despite him supposedly wanting to make peace with his family.

A source said: "He thought the abuse towards his wife would never stop until he said something in his own words…he was sick of the lies, and there was no changing his mind…and nor did anyone want to."

Less than 24 hours later, Brooklyn released the statement which left the Beckhams stunned.

In it, he alleged they had controlled him his entire life, and even ruined his wedding. Brooklyn said he was speaking up to counter the lies he claimed his parents were behind to "preserve their own facade".

Dad David, who was in Davos for the World Economic Forum, didn't refer to the row, but admitted that his children had "made mistakes" on social media.

He added: "They make mistakes, but children are allowed to make mistakes. That is how they learn. That is what I try to teach my kids."

Victoria's dance at wedding of Brooklyn and Nicola, above, was likened to Motherland character Amanda, left; right, Brooklyn's new tattoo of his wife's eyes

Tallia, far left, with Brooklyn in 2014

Posh sent snappers on dates

BY **SHELLEY SPADONI**

BROOKLYN Beckham's nuclear statement against his parents has caused shockwaves in the celebrity world and now his ex-girlfriend Tallia Storm may have poured more fuel on the fire.

Tallia, who dated Brooklyn from 2014 when they were teenagers, claims Victoria had a vested interest in their relationship and that her team sent paparazzi to photograph them together.

Singer Tallia, 27, recalled how Brooklyn came to one of her gigs at Hanover Square in London's Mayfair. She claimed: "Victoria sent a security team during the day to check the venue. When we went to the gig, Brooklyn came in with my sister and then when we left with his security, there were like 20 paparazzi outside."

Fright

After doing some digging, Tallia, *below*, asked her mother Tessa Hartmann, a brand and PR expert, how the photographers knew about their date. Tallia said: "I got a fright. I didn't want Brooklyn to think I'd called the paps. My mum's in the media and we started asking around. We were told paps had been called by Victoria's team."

Brooklyn, 26, spoke out against his parents David and Victoria on Monday, claiming they "controlled" him for "most" of his life.

Tallia dated Brooklyn for 18 months. The singer said: "We were just 16, young, hanging out." She believes Victoria warmed to her as she is connected to Brooklyn's godfather Sir Elton John, who backed her career early on.

The teens split after Tallia claimed Brooklyn told her he could not attend a charity event with her on Victoria's request. Representatives for the Beckhams were contacted.

£1.5bn boost will keep cultural venues open

BY **PAUL JEEVES**

MUSEUMS, libraries, galleries and heritage sites are to receive £1.5billion in government investment to help "restore national pride".

A five-year funding plan for England will target urgent repairs and aim to prevent more than 1,000 cultural venues from closing.

Culture Secretary Lisa Nandy said the package – welcomed by high-profile figures including sculptor Sir Antony Gormley and artist Sir Grayson Perry – would help provide affordable days out amid the ongoing cost-of-living crisis.

Ms Nandy said: "This funding will keep the doors open and the lights on at thousands of organisations that might otherwise have been at risk of closure."

Prof Groes and colleagues recreate Help! cover, inset

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Help...we really need somebody

Team wants fans to see what triggers memories of Beatles

BY **CHRIS RICHES**

IF Penny Lane is in your ears and in your eyes, then scientists want to hear from you – as they use The Beatles as a template to study how sound, sight, touch and smell can all trigger memories.

Volunteers are being sought for a memory experiment taking place next month.

Researchers are particularly keen to hear from those who saw the Fab Four play live in the Midlands.

The team, from the University of Wolverhampton, said the aim was to "deepen understanding of memory from the swinging 60s to the digital age".

Professor Sebastian Groes, head of the university's Centre for Transnational and Transcultural Research, said: "We want to understand how growing up in a specific socio-cultural context influences the way people perceive a supposedly 'universal' cultural phenomenon like The Beatles.

"Alongside advancing research, we hope to offer wellbeing benefits, particularly for older generations."

The live study takes place on February 8 at the city's literature festival. Event staff and university academics will lead interactive experiments that build on previous "ground-breaking memory research by university experts".

The research team, led by Dr Tom Mercer (psychology) and PhD student Megan Powell (English literature), said the memory event is open to adults of all ages – but they would especially love to hear from attendees of Beatles concerts from the West Midlands.

Broadcaster and writer Stuart Maconie will give a talk on the Fab Four as part of the festival.

Other authors and celebrities taking part include Dr Hilary Jones, Blur drummer Dave Rowntree, author Kasim Ali, who was born and raised in Alum Rock, Birmingham, and My Name is Leon author Kit de Waal, who was also born in Birmingham.

The University of Wolverhampton said of the experiment: "This initiative builds on [the centre's] acclaimed Novel Memories project and previous events such as Snidge Scrumpin': Mapping Smell and Memory in the Black Country, which inspired the book Smell, Memory, and Literature in the Black Country. The new experiment draws on doctoral research by Megan Powell (Beatles and the avant-garde) and Beth Young (autobiographical fictional memories), bridging psychology and literature to spark intergenerational conversations."

OPINION: PAGE 12

Picture: JOAN MATEU PARRA/AP

Investigators and fire teams at the scene of the latest train crash near Barcelona

Train driver killed as Spain suffers a second rail tragedy in two days

A TRAIN driver was killed and at least 37 people injured after a commuter service struck a collapsed wall and derailed near Barcelona. It came just two days after the fatal train collision which killed at least 43 people in southern Spain.

Tuesday's accident happened when the train hit debris on the line from Gelida to Sant Sadurní after a retaining wall gave way.

Five passengers were seriously injured including two of the three trainee drivers who were on board.

Severe storms have been battering north-eastern Spain, with coastal areas in the east and north-west on high weather alert.

It is believed the wall collapse occurred as the train was passing shortly after 9pm local time. Debris hit the driver's cab first, heavily damaging the front carriage, where most of the injured were sitting.

Rescue teams reportedly spent almost an hour freeing one survivor at the scene in Gelida, 22 miles west of Barcelona.

Train drivers' union Semaf has called a strike as a result of the two deadly crashes. It said its members "consider this situation of constant deterioration of the railway unacceptable".

Sunday's tragedy, *inset*, involved two high-speed trains colliding at Adamuz, Andalusia. The crash, the cause of which is unclear, is one of the worst Spanish rail accidents in over a decade.

Carriages on a Madrid-bound train derailed, say investigators. They then crossed over to the opposite tracks and collided with an oncoming high-speed train.

The Spanish government has described the accident as "extremely strange".

BY **FRANCES MILLAR**

Girl slave kept in 'Dickensian conditions' by mother of ten

BY **ROD MINCHIN**

A TEENAGE girl was forced to work as a "house slave" for a woman and her 10 children for more than 25 years in foul conditions that were described in court as "Dickensian".

Now in her mid-40s, she was fed on scraps, had her teeth knocked out and was attacked with chemicals.

The girl was 16 when she moved into the squalid home of mother-of-10 Amanda Wixon, 56, in 1995.

Gloucester crown court was told she stayed there to 2021 but was often beaten and had her teeth knocked out by a broom handle.

Washing-up liquid was squirted down her throat, bleach splashed on her face and she had her head repeatedly shaved against her will.

Wixon limited her food so she had to live off scraps, could not leave the home and had to wash secretly at night. The overcrowded home in Tewkesbury, Glos, had mould on the walls, plaster peeling off and rubbish piled in the garden.

Cruel Amanda Wixon will be sentenced in March

Wixon denied false imprisonment, two charges of requiring a person to perform forced or compulsory labour and four of assault occasioning actual bodily harm. Cleared of one assault, she was found guilty of the other charges and freed on conditional bail to be sentenced on March 12.

Sam Jones, prosecuting, had told jurors the girl "was kept in and prevented from leaving the address and she was assaulted and hit many, many times and forced to work with the threats of violence. She had been denied food and the ability to wash."

Judge Ian Lawrie KC said there was a "Dickensian quality" to the case after the woman, who has learning difficulties, left her own "dysfunctional family". Police went to Wixon's house in March 2021 following a report made by one of her sons.

Officers said the woman's bedroom was like a cell and other bedrooms were dirty and untidy.

She told police: "I don't want to be here. I don't feel safe. Mandy hits me all the time. I don't like it. I haven't washed for years. She doesn't let me."

The court heard that social services staff had been involved with the family in the late 1990s but there were no records of any contact since then. Mr Jones told jurors: "The fact remains that nothing was done by social services."

There were no medical records or dental records for the woman, and she had not seen a GP in decades. Mr Jones said the lack of notes from a hospital, doctor or dentist or involvement with social services "provides further support of her never being allowed to leave the house".

Mr Jones added: "By the late 1990s it appears the woman disappeared into a black hole."

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Tom Cruise, above and right, famously does his own Mission: Impossible stunts, but Sir David reckons he's done his fair share too

At 85, as he undertakes a nationwide tour, Sir David Jason talks stunts, stars and, of course, Del Boy

By **Marc Baker** and **Fran Bowden**

SIR DAVID JASON dressed as Batman in a famous episode of Only Fools & Horses – now it seems playing an action hero went to his head. Aged 85, the comedy legend wants to team up with Tom Cruise for a twist on his hit Mission: Impossible franchise.

"I have met Tom," says Sir David. "I got to know him quite well and I offered him the chance to join me in a film called Mission: Possible.

"It will be Mission: Possible starring Sir David Jason and Tom Cruise in smaller letters. I am still waiting for the return from Paramount. These things are always slow. Watch this space."

At 5ft 6in, Sir David is only one inch shorter than Tom, 63. And he could give him a run for his money when it comes to stunts – some of them even more daredevil than falling through the bar in another classic Del Boy moment.

He says: "I have done lots of my own stunts over the years and I have done a barrel roll in a Spitfire." As he begins a nationwide speaking tour, Sir David says his stature had a bearing on the way he played DI Jack Frost in ITV's A Touch of Frost from 1992 to 2010. He says: "In those days, the minimum height to be a policeman was 5ft 8in. In order to achieve the minimum, I had to carry myself differently.

"I would walk and behave like a policeman. That set me off and the height kept me as high as I could possibly be. He was a wonderful character."

Growing up in North London, Sir David worked as an electrician before going into acting – something he says helped when it came to developing his best-loved character, Only Fools' Del Boy.

But his vision of the character was nothing like that of scriptwriter John Sullivan.

Sir David explains: "When I was an electrician, my partner and I went to a builders' yard and ended up in Plaistow and asked if we could see the boss.

"Out of the back came this guy in a camel hair coat, so I pinched that idea off him with a pressed shirt and a tie. When I spoke to John Sullivan I said 'how do you view Derek Trotter?' He said: 'I imagine him to be a Cockney who works in the market with a big beer gut.'

"But I had read the script and I based Derek Trotter on Derek Hockley, the electrician who I had met.

"I was impressed by how this East End wheeler-dealer spoke."

Sir David also claims John had not wanted him for the part – which he played from 1981 to 2003 – when he was initially suggested by director Ray Butt. He says: "When my name was mentioned, John Sullivan said 'I don't think so as David Jason always plays a loser'."

Basing the show on a family was what made it really resonate with audiences, according to Sir David.

Recalling his feelings when he first read the script, Sir David says he immediately knew the script was special. He adds: "It says it is a situation comedy, but it is situation drama.

"It is so well-written and is about the family and conflicts and that is as powerful as the relationship with the comedy."

Writing around a family also proved successful in The Darling Buds of May from 1991 to 1993, the show which launched Catherine Zeta-Jones to stardom.

But when he was first asked to consider playing Pa Larkin, Sir David says he told his agent: "Nothing ever happens. There are no murders, no excitement or kidnaps."

An Evening With Sir David Jason is on tour nationwide

Sir David in Open All Hours with Ronnie Barker, whom he called 'the Guvnor'

Still, the Bafta award-winning actor loved playing the role. Of Catherine, 56, he says: "This was her first major job in television. She got the part and it suited her to the ground. She was very innocent."

But while he says the camera loved Catherine, his own waistline grew because of all the eating scenes with Ma Larkin, played by Pam Ferris. He laughs: "I certainly did put on weight.

"If there was eating to be done, Pa Larkin would not hang back. Ma would always double feed everybody."

Sir David married Gill Hinchcliffe in 2005 and has two daughters – Sophie Mae, 25, and his long-lost older daughter Abi Harris, 52, whose existence he only discovered in 2022.

HE SAYS comedy has changed since he started out – and he believes there is now too much swearing on the BBC.

"There was a green handbook called Variety Programmes Policy Guide that came out in 1948 and I have a copy at home," he says.

"It was given as a guide to actors, directors and producers and other important people

Sir David flew in a Spitfire for a 2010 documentary on the Battle of Britain

Hey Tom...

Mission Possible? I'm waiting for your call

who made programmes for the BBC. It said: 'There is an absolute ban on the following. Lavatories, effeminacy in men, immorality of any kind and references to honeymoon couples, chamber maids, fig leaves, commercial travellers and ladies' underwear.'

"This is how strict the BBC was about our words and innuendo.

"You were not allowed to say these things like 'good God, my God, hell, blast, dam, cor blimey, ruddy and bloody'.

"Where would the BBC be now if it stuck to those rules?"

Sir David has happy memories of the 'good old days' of British comedy, and talks fondly of playing Granville, the put-upon assistant to his uncle Arkwright, played by Ronnie Barker, in Open All Hours, which ran from 1976 to 1985.

But he remembers moaning to his BBC bosses that he was always feeding Ronnie all the funny lines.

He says: "All I was doing as Granville was setting up the jokes for Ronnie to get a big laugh on."

Reassured by his bosses of the importance of his role, he swallowed his pride – and says Ronnie even wrote a special scene for him.

Sir David says of his comedy mentor: "Ronnie said: 'Do you know how lucky we are? We are getting paid well to make ourselves laugh.' That showed how warm he was."

And one of his most prized showbiz possessions from his 60-year career – which he hangs in his downstairs loo – comes from Ronnie, who died in 2005, aged 76.

He says: "I always called Ronnie 'the Guvnor'. When Ronnie retired he wrote me a note passing the title on to me.

"He signed it: 'Arkwright, Norman Stanley Fletcher and ex-Guvnor Ronnie Barker. God Save the Queen'."

● *Sir David was speaking as part of his nationwide An Evening With Sir David Jason tour.*

Sir David and Gill Hinchcliffe, who married in 2005

Del Boy and Rodney (Nicholas Lyndhurst) as Batman and Robin, with Boycie (John Challis)

‘They say you can’t define unbearable pain. You can...’

Jersey leads way on legalising assisted dying

Campaigner Lorna backed change in law

BY **HANNA GEISSLER**
Health Editor

JERSEY is on track to legalise assisted dying next month after members of its States Assembly voted 32 to 14 in favour of changing the law.

There will be a further debate on the draft legislation on February 24, when the Channel Island’s parliament will discuss and vote on amendments ahead of a final vote.

If it is passed, the law could come into force next summer.

The result was welcomed by Jersey resident Lorna Pirozzolo, 49, who has terminal breast cancer.

She said: “People say you can’t define unbearable pain. You can. Neither your body nor your mind can go on like that.

“I’m not scared of death itself. It’s the bit before it – what you’re going to be made to go through. It’s not that you want to die. You don’t want to leave your loved ones, but I don’t want to be in excruciating pain and forced to stay in it.”

The family of Alain du Chemin, a Jersey resident who died of a brain tumour at the age of 50 in 2021, have also welcomed the vote result.

Alain fought for the right to have an assisted death and had made plans to travel to Dignitas in Switzerland, but passed away in a Jersey hospice.

His widower Paul Gazzard said: “Alain would have lived better in his final months knowing he had the choice he wanted here at home, without feeling he had to plan an assisted death overseas at huge expense and in the middle of a pandemic.”

He added: “Alain was a passionate supporter of an assisted dying law for Jersey and I know that his campaigning has brought this closer to becoming a reality.”

Jersey’s proposed law would provide access to assisted dying for mentally competent, terminally ill adults who are expected to die within six months – a year for those with neurodegenerative conditions – and who have lived on Jersey for 12 months.

A similar bill for England and Wales, backed by the Express crusade Give Us Our Last Rights, has reached the committee stage in the House of Lords but has hit delays due to opponents tabling a lot of amendments.

EXPRESS CRUSADE
GIVE US OUR LAST RIGHTS

Jersey’s parliamentarians also voted to approve a law that will put a statutory duty on its health minister to provide end-of-life care for the last year of anyone’s life. Supporters said this would ensure “real choice for people who are dying”.

Sarah Wootton, chief executive of campaign group Dignity in Dying, said: “This vote marks a decisive moment for Jersey, bringing compassionate choice at the end of life within touching distance.

“States Members have now agreed the fundamental principles of a safeguarded assisted dying law, voting to respect the experiences of dying people and the clear views of the Jersey public. As they come to fine tune this historic law next month, this must remain central.”

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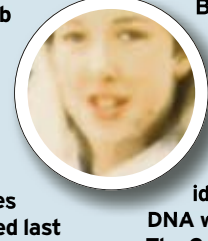
£20k reward in battle to solve 40-year-old murder of Diane

BY **CHRIS RICHES**

DETECTIVES have vowed to bring the sex killer of a florist 40 years ago to justice after offering a £20,000 Crimestoppers reward.

The murder of florist Diane Sindall, 21, *inset*, as she walked home from a part-time barmaid job in 1986, sparked a national outcry after her battered body was found in an alleyway in Birkenhead on the Wirral.



Merseyside Police’s new reward for information comes after Peter Sullivan was freed last May after 38 years in prison for a murder he did not commit.

Forensic DNA evidence proved the killer is still out there and that Mr Sullivan, 68, was the victim of the longest miscarriage of justice involving a living prisoner in British legal history.

Det Supt Rachel Wilson said yesterday: “It is devastating for Diane’s family that they are still waiting for the answers and we remain committed to identifying the person whose DNA was left at the scene.”

The Crimestoppers reward is available for three months and is due to expire on April 22.

‘Worrying’ bogus slimming claims of health supplements

BY **HANNA GEISSLER** Health Editor

ONLINE retailers are flouting advertising rules and making outlandish claims about the weight-loss benefits of some supplements, an investigation has found.

Research by Which? looked at products sold on popular internet marketplaces and outlets including Amazon, eBay, Holland & Barrett, Superdrug and Temu.

It found many sites or brands made claims that did not stand up to scrutiny, in some cases breaking rules about the health claims companies are permitted to make.

Sue Davies, Which? head of consumer policy, said: “It’s really worrying that online marketplaces and popular health retailers are promoting misleading supplements.

“Not only does this make it impossible for shoppers to trust the claims they see online but it also means people could be wasting their hard-earned cash on products which just don’t live up to the claims.”

In one example, the consumer champion saw Extreme Burn supplements by a firm called Formula Max 5 listed on eBay.

The product claimed the ingredient raspberry fruit extract “assists the body to burn fat at a higher rate” and the addition of green coffee bean “decreases the absorption of carbohydrates”. Which? said the claims were rejected by the health claims register, held by the Department of Health, due to a lack of evidence.

Superdrug said consumer’s health and wellbeing was “always a priority” and “paused retailing of the highlighted product”. Holland & Barrett said its science and regulatory teams regularly carry out reviews of product categorisation and it had moved the product flagged by Which?.

Amazon, eBay and Temu also confirmed highlighted products had been removed.

ADHD PRESCRIPTIONS SOAR

THE use of ADHD medicines by adults has tripled since 2010, a study claims.

In 2010 just 0.12% of adults had prescriptions for drugs such as Ritalin but by 2023 it was 0.39%, according to an Oxford University-led study covering the UK, Belgium, the Netherlands, Germany and Spain.

The UK had the “highest relative increase”, particularly among women, the researchers wrote in The Lancet Regional Health – Europe.

Mel Brooks at the premiere on Tuesday

Mel marks eight decades of laughs

THERE’S laughs in the old dog yet as Mel Brooks greets guests at the premiere of his documentary, The 99 Year Old Man!

The comedy legend, who turns 100 in June, greeted guests with a beaming smile at the Ted Mann Theatre in Los Angeles.

In conversation with director Judd Apatow, Mel said the retrospective marking nearly eight decades in showbiz is as much about encouragement as celebration. “It’s not so much about me,”

BY **FRANCES MILLAR**

he told the audience, “but about little, short, funny-looking Jews who are trepidatious about entering showbusiness. If I can do it, you can do it.”

Mel worked closely with actor Gene Wilder and was behind classics including The Producers in 1967, Blazing Saddles in 1974 and Spaceballs in 1986.

The 99 Year Old Man! is available on Sky Documentaries and NOW.

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Porkies row as baker denies recipe switch

BY **ADAM DUTTON**

PORK pie fans are embroiled in a bizarre row over their favourite treat, after accusing a bakery of changing its 107-year-old recipe.

Customers said they had recently noticed a huge decline in the standard of pork pies being produced by Birds Bakery chain.

Enthusiasts have now accused the company of telling porkies, after it hit back to claim the recipe had not changed since 1919.

The bust-up began when customers took to social media over the festive period. They claimed there has been a "clear decline in quality" due to poor flavour, too thick pastry and not enough jelly.

Mick Dowd, 65, bought one from Chaddesden, Derbys, on January 10 but binned it after a few bites.

The dad of three said: "It's really surprised me how bad they are now.

"I've been buying their pork pies on and off for 40 or 50 years. It seems in the last couple of years they have been getting worse.

"I cut into it and there was no flavour, no jelly, it was pink. We decided to throw it in the bin. It's a shame that it has changed so much because I've always been a passionate pork pie lover."

Another fan, Emily Morrison, 31, of Coalville, Leics, added: "There has definitely been a drop-off in quality. It has become a massive talking point around here.

"It's like when beloved chocolate boxes get smaller – someone is cutting corners somewhere. We're being told the recipe hasn't changed but the taste definitely has, so what are they doing differently?" Tim Brown, 55, said the savoury treat had "lost the peppery-ness".

Disgruntled customers also flocked to the Pork Pie Appreciation Society Facebook group. One said: "It's a shame such an iconic local bakery has gone downhill." However, one customer responded: "I don't know what the fuss is about – still the best pork pies for miles around."

The East Midlands-based family-owned chain's pies cost £2.65 or £5.80 for a large. It has around 60 branches in the region. MD Jamie Bird said: "When something has been part of local life for as long as our pork pies have, we understand people feel passionate about them.

"We'd like to reassure customers that our recipe has not changed.

"We're proud to have been making and selling them the same way since 1919."

Bakery chief Adam Thompson added: "The baker who leads our pork pie production has been part of the Birds team for over 10 years. We use only high-quality cuts of pork. Our pastry is made to an unchanged recipe, and our jelly is prepared in-house, just as it always has been."

Customer Mick Dowd's pork pie, from the Birds branch in Derbyshire, inset

Hidden salt risks in top takeaways

BY **STEPHEN BEECH**

SOME of the country's most popular fast food dishes include far more salt than the recommended daily guidelines and more than is shown on their menus, according to research.

One pasta dish contained 11.2g, almost double the 6g recommended full-day intake for an adult. But traditional fish and chip shop meals contained low levels, as it is only added after cooking and on request.

Labelling

Researchers found that 47% of the takeaways analysed in the study exceeded their declared salt levels – with curries, pasta and pizza dishes often failing to match what their menus claimed.

The University of Reading study was conducted to examine the accuracy of menu food labelling and the variation in salt content between similar dishes.

The research team bought 39 takeaways from 23 outlets around Reading, including restaurant chains and local independent takeaways.

The findings showed that meat pizzas had the highest salt at 1.6g per 100g. Pasta dishes contained the most per serving, averaging 7.2g – once again more than a full day's recommended intake.

Curry dishes showed the greatest variation, with levels ranging from 2.3g to 9.4g per dish.

Study leader Professor Gunter Kuhnle said: "We suspected that many menu labels were inaccurate on salt. It is very difficult for restaurants to provide accurate values without measuring each meal."

He added: "Food companies have been reducing salt levels in shop-bought foods in recent years but our research shows that eating out is often a salty affair.

"Menu labels are supposed to help people make better food choices but almost half the foods we tested with salt labels contained more salt than declared."

Excess salt intake contributes to 1.8 million deaths worldwide each year, according to World Health Organisation estimates.

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Lee shot to stage stardom as Joseph

A DREAM

As he prepares to play 19th-century showman PT Barnum in a new UK tour, West End star Lee Mead reveals the childhood inspiration behind his most challenging role yet

EXCLUSIVE
By **Sue Crawford**

LEE Mead has endured six months of gruelling tightrope training ahead of his new role as legendary showman PT Barnum. Learning to walk along a tiny 1cm wire, suspended high above the ground, has been both mentally and physically challenging, but it is a role Lee feels he was destined to play his entire life due to a series of uncanny coincidences.

Theatre legend Michael Crawford played the original Barnum in 1981 – the year that Lee was born. And 14 years later Lee had the part of the ringmaster in a school production of the show.

But by far the most touching connection to Barnum is one that Lee shared with his beloved grandparents Lily and Bert. "My nan and grandad never had much money and they saved for almost a year and a half to see Michael Crawford as Barnum at the London Palladium in 1983," recalls Lee.

"My nan would often say to me when I was growing up, 'Oh, me and grandad went to see Michael Crawford play Barnum. It was the most spectacular thing we ever saw.' It was such a special memory for them that they spoke about the show their whole lives.

"I know they would have absolutely loved to have seen me as Barnum, so I really felt on a spiritual and very personal level that they brought this show to me.

"They would have been so proud and I feel like they will be with me at every single show."

Lee's grandfather died when he was a teenager. Lily passed away 15 years ago, so was able to witness his incredible success in the title role of Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat after winning the 2007 BBC show Any Dream Will Do.

In subsequent years he spent time in the BBC drama series Casualty, playing the role of nurse Ben "Lofty" Chiltern. He has released four solo albums, toured the UK extensively and appeared in a host of hit West End shows, including Sister Act, Wicked and We Will Rock You, as well as nationwide tours of Chicago and Chitty Chitty Bang Bang.

Lee in the title role in stage show Barnum

BUT he says his role in the new nationwide tour of the classic Broadway musical Barnum will be his most challenging yet. The spectacular production features an extraordinary ensemble cast of actors, musicians, acrobats and circus acts, as it tells the story of flamboyant US showman PT Barnum.

In 1870, the charismatic businessman established the famed circus, PT Barnum's Grand Travelling Museum, Menagerie, Caravan & Hippodrome, which went on to become the biggest circus in the world. The story sparked a 1980s musical and the 2017 Grammy and Golden Globe-winning film The Greatest Showman, starring Hugh Jackman.

'Joseph was huge, there were 600 people waiting outside the stage door after every show'

"This is going to be the biggest role of my career," reflects Lee. "Obviously, Joseph was huge – there were 600 people waiting outside the stage door after every show. There'd be police on horses to stop the traffic. It was like being a rock star.

"But I won't play a role like Barnum for the rest of my career. It's the most challenging I've had in 23 years of showbusiness. I'm driving the

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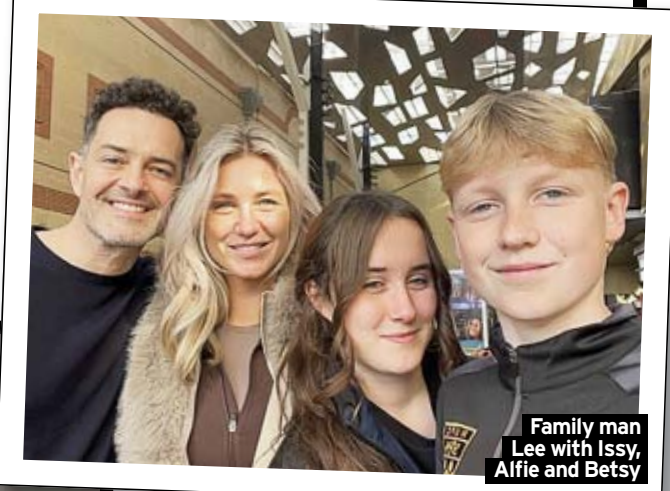
COME TRUE

'It's the most challenging part I have had. I won't play a role like Barnum for the rest of my career'

Lee Mead has excelled as an actor and singer



Family man Lee with Issy, Alfie and Betsy

whole show for two hours – I'm in every single scene and I've got lots of big speeches and very wordy songs and dialogue."

Not only that, but there are also the circus skills required for the role. "Luckily, I could already juggle three balls, but I've had six months of tightrope training with two-hour sessions twice a week," adds Lee. "I end the first act with a six-metre tightrope walk two metres high across a 1cm wire with no crash mats and no safety harness.

"Mentally, it's been a real challenge. There's so much technique involved that it's absolutely exhausting, because you use your whole body to walk on the wire. But equally, psychologically it's a battle too. You have to keep telling yourself that you can do it and not to be scared."

The show, choreographed by Strictly Come Dancing's Oti Mabuse, opens on January 30 in Windsor and Lee will finish five months later in his hometown of Southend in Essex, in early July. He admits it will be hard being away from his family for so long. Lee shares 15-year-old daughter Betsy with his ex-wife, actress and TV presenter Denise van Outen.

Betsy spends half the week with her mum in Essex and the other half in Kent, where Lee lives with his fiancee, make-up artist Issy Szumniak and her son Alfie. "I'm always in the car and I must cross the Dartford Bridge at least 20 times a week," Lee smiles. "I'm very much a family man. I've got my stepson Alfie who is 12 – I've known him since he was three – and my daughter Betsy. It never gets easier being away from them.

"I could have potentially toured Barnum throughout the summer. I love my work so much, but my family and home life will always come before my career and I felt five months was long enough.

"It's quite a lonely life on the road. When the show finishes, you're back in a hotel room on your own. I'm always conscious of that balance of not being on tour more than half the year if possible." Lee and Issy met nine years ago in a coffee shop when he was on the school run with Betsy. "I was doing the school pick-up and I used to arrive an hour early because of traffic and I went to this Italian coffee shop," he recalls.

"It was a lightbulb moment. I walked in and caught Issy's eye. Alfie was with her and it was a lovely natural moment. I walked over and said, 'Hi, I'm Lee, who's this?'

"After they left, I said to the café owner, 'Is she single by any chance?' And that evening she messaged him and said, 'Do you know if Lee is with anyone?' We were both single and I plucked up the courage to ask her out for a drink.

"We instantly knew, we had that unspoken connection. It felt easy and relaxed and I felt completely safe and happy. I am very blessed that we have each other and Alfie and Betsy.

"We're engaged and we're in the process of buying a house together in Kent, which is really exciting, and not long after that we plan to get married, which will be lovely."

Lee met ex-wife Denise aged 26 when he appeared on Any Dream Will Do. Denise, seven years his senior, was one of the show's judges. They tied the knot three years later but the marriage ended in 2013.

HE says: "We're good friends. We've always wanted the best for Betsy like any parent and we've a pretty good relationship for Betsy in that sense – with respect, which is lovely."

Lee is uncertain whether their daughter will follow in their footsteps. "She did her first school production last year," he says. "She's got a lovely voice and she really enjoyed it, so who knows?"

Lee himself fell in love with acting at the same age and appeared in his school's performance of Barnum as a 14-year-old.

He then did work experience at his local theatre before landing his first job as a cruise ship singer on the Portsmouth to Bilbao car ferry.

When Barnum finishes, he hopes to head to America to record his next album. He also wouldn't rule out Strictly Come Dancing.

"I was approached a couple of times and sadly it didn't quite happen," he says. "I was in talks and at one point it looked like they wanted me.

"There was a stand-by list and it didn't go ahead. It would have been exciting, but also petrifying at the same time!"

It's hard to believe such an experienced performer would find a twirl around the Strictly dance floor a nerve-racking experience, but despite being a talented actor, singer and now tightrope walker, Lee admits his dancing isn't up to the same standard. "I'm very good at acting like I can dance!" he confesses with a laugh.

Well, he is The Greatest Showman.

● *Lee Mead stars in the UK tour of Barnum, from January 30. For information, visit kenwright.com*

30-SECOND CHALLENGE

JUST follow the instructions from left to right, starting with the number given to reach an answer at the end of the row. Set your own 30-second challenge. For the very young or arithmetically rusty, you have 30 seconds for the BEGINNER task.

For a greater challenge, try BEGINNER and INTERMEDIATE in 30 seconds. True mental gymnasts should try INTERMEDIATE and ADVANCED in 30 seconds together.

Today's answers can be found in the puzzles pullout

										YOUR ANSWERS
Beginner	54	÷9	+58	TAKE THE SQUARE ROOT	x9	-35	REVERSE THE DIGITS	+15	÷11	
Intermediate	124	-37	2/3 OF THIS	+162	60% OF THIS	-47	÷5	+46	x4	
Advanced	84	INCREASE BY 75%	+256	7/13 OF THIS	-82	÷5	+88	60% OF THIS	-32	

THE NATIONAL LOTTERY

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 21
LOTTERY
5 24 28 46 49 56 19
THUNDERBALL
7 13 16 20 21 4

TUESDAY, JANUARY 20
EUROMILLIONS 11 18 19 22 50 1 11
THUNDERBALL 4 10 13 32 37 10

MONDAY, JANUARY 19
SET FOR LIFE 3 7 19 30 32 7

THE HEALTH LOTTERY

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 21
11 22 27 45 50 21

TUESDAY, JANUARY 20
7 16 22 26 42 34

The Health Lottery has raised more than £135m for health-related causes since 2011. Details at thehealthlotteryfoundation.org.uk

PHONE POLL RESULTS

We asked in our poll on Tuesday:
Is trans ideology undermining trust in the NHS?

YES: 97%
NO: 3%

DO YOU HAVE A STORY OR A PHOTO?

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or email:
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If you have a photo:
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or email:
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For general inquiries:
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FOR GREAT READER OFFERS

SUDOKU

Fill in all the squares so that each row, each column, and each 3x3 square contain all the digits from 1 to 9

		9			4			
8					7	2		4
		7	6		2	1	9	
7					3	6		8
	9			5			2	
3		2	4		6			9
		5	3		8	7		
4		6	7				8	1
2			1		9	4		

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For extra clues call:
09013 225 602
(Calls cost 75p plus your telephone company's network access charge)

MORE PUZZLES – PULLOUT
YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION

8	4	5	9	2	6	7	1	3
3	7	2	1	4	8	6	5	9
6	1	9	7	5	3	8	4	2
1	2	7	8	3	4	9	6	5
4	9	8	6	7	5	3	2	1
5	6	3	2	1	9	4	7	8
9	5	1	4	8	7	2	3	6
2	8	4	3	6	1	5	9	7
7	3	6	5	9	2	1	8	4

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Computer-generated image of bag snatcher

Pray they nab Take That Gary lookalike

BY **ISOBEL WILLIAMS**

POLICE are looking for a suspected robber, who is said to be a dead ringer for Take That's Gary Barlow.

Officers created the e-fit after a teenage boy was threatened.

The computer-generated image of the bag-snatcher has been likened to Pray singer Gary.

Social media wags also said it resembles MobLand actor Paddy Considine and US comedian Andrew Santino.

The boy was robbed near the railway station in Ramsgate, Kent, at 4.30pm on December 16.

Kent Police described the man they seek as being white and aged between 45 and 50 years old, around 5ft 9in tall, with fair hair in twists and a braided beard.

The force added: "Anyone with relevant information is urged to contact Kent Police."

Take That frontman Gary Barlow

Delivery driver nicked my cat!

Amazon delivery driver appears to have cat in his arms and then exits. Sick moggy Nora has not been seen since by his owners

AN AMAZON delivery driver was caught on a doorbell camera appearing to walk off with the householder's cat.

Carl Crowther was left "disgusted" after discovering the footage and said Nora, *inset*, is still missing and needs to take her medication because of a heart problem.

Maintenance man Carl, 53, had been on a callout at 1.30pm – an hour before the delivery arrived.

He said: "I didn't see the cat for the remainder of the day. She's an outdoor cat and knows her way home. We have a cat flap she can get back through.

"No sign of her in the morning so for some reason I checked the doorbell camera out of curiosity, in case she'd been back.

"Lo and behold, I saw this delivery man come down the path with the parcel in his hand.

"He doesn't get a response at the door as no one was in so he looks for somewhere safe to put the parcel. He's then clocked the cat."

Carl claimed: "He comes right up to the door, picks up the cat, turns around and walks off. It's disgusting."

BY **JAKE MEEUS-JONES**

Carl and partner, Sarah, 52, say there has been no sign of her since. Carl from Elland, West Yorks, said: "I got on to 101 and I had a video call and they said they'd get back in touch within 48 hours.

"I spoke to Amazon and told them what happened. I've been emailing them and their response was disgusting, asking what monetary value we'd put on the cat.

"How can you put a value on somebody's pet?"

Carl is desperate for the police to act as soon as possible, as he is concerned about Nora's health.

He said: "It needs to be quicker than 48 hours, as she has a heart murmur and is on medication."

Amazon confirmed it is investigating the incident and has been in touch with police.

West Yorkshire Police said: "Police received a report of a cat being stolen from outside a property in Elland.

"A crime of theft has been recorded and inquiries remain ongoing."

Address tips off flytip team

A FLYTIPPER was caught when he left letters addressed to him among rubbish he dumped on a pavement.

Manuel Beghian also abandoned bottles, packaging and some slippers in the street in Wolverhampton.

Dudley magistrates heard he was traced to his nearby home using the post. Beghian was convicted in his absence of a charge of obstruction for failing to comply with requests from investigating officers – he was fined £250 with costs of £2,000.

Bhupinder Gakhal, city council cabinet member for resident services, said: "There is simply no excuse for dumping waste. We will prosecute – and we will publicise."

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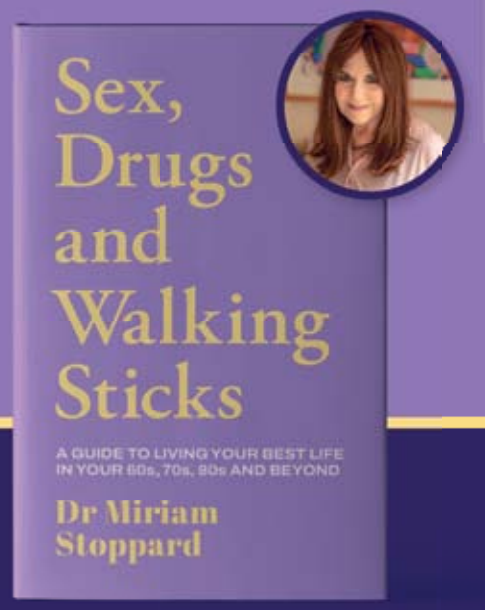
Sex, Drugs and Walking Sticks

by Dr Miriam Stoppard



AMAZON

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- 10 simple one-touch programs
- Large 9.5l capacity
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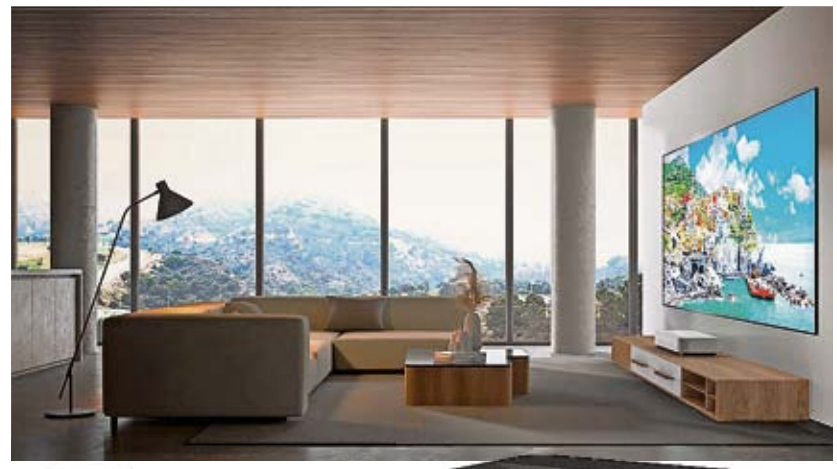
TECH SHAPE OF THE FUTURE

Edited by **DAVE SNELLING**



ASUS BROADBAND

ASUS has just announced its first-ever Wi-Fi 8 router, marking another step up from Wi-Fi 6 and 7.

It's just a concept for now, but it could transform the way we all connect to the web.

Not only will it be able to deliver quicker downloads, but it will also offer a more reliable and stable connection at all times – even in busy streets with lots of interference.

There's no word on a launch date just yet, but this technology could finally fix your broken internet.

EPSON PROJECTOR

Epson might be famed for printers, but the firm's new release looks more fun.

The Lifestudio Grand EH-LS970 is a new 4K ultra short-throw projector that beams a pin-sharp and super-bright image on to any wall at home. Clever AI even makes sure the picture is perfectly optimised for any room.

It also packs a Bose-engineered sound system in its shell and comes with Google TV built in. That means there's instant access to popular apps such as Netflix and Disney+.

The Lifestudio Grand will be available from April 2026 – prices should be announced soon.

NINTENDO SMART CASE

This clever new Charging Case Pro from Belkin not only protects your Nintendo Switch 2 but also provides an instant refill.

Thanks to an in-built battery pack, you'll never run low on juice, and there's even an LED screen which shows you how much energy is left in the tank.

Other features include storage for gaming cards, a neat flip-up stand to help you play on the move, and a slot to pop an Apple AirTag tracker inside to stop the console getting lost.

Expect to pay around £90 when it launches in the UK.

TECH & MOTORING

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44 City
PLUS Puzzles

ON THE VERGE OF PERFECTION

It's not just electric cars that are getting an impressive performance boost. Verge Motorcycles has just announced the release of its new TS Pro, the first two-wheeled machine to incorporate solid-state battery technology, which it says will "shake up the entire automotive industry".

This upgrade makes things significantly safer and more efficient than standard lithium-ion batteries found in many EVs.

The main bonus of this update is a much longer range, along with super-fast charging that reduces the time it takes to top up the tank. Once it arrives on roads later this year, the TS Pro will be capable of travelling 370 miles without stopping, and when things do run low, it gets a 50% refill in just 10 minutes.

Its electric power is also mighty, with riders being whizzed from 0-62mph in 3.5 seconds, reaching a top speed of over 130mph. A futuristic design,which looks straight out of a Hollywood movie, is also sure to turn a few heads.

The only thing that might put the brakes on buying one is the £31,980 asking price.

GREEN MACHINE *New TS Pro*

Money-saving heroes

With energy prices rising again and freezing weather, you might be looking for savvy ways to save money on those bills. Here are some simple tech tips to help cut down on all the power you need at the moment

SKY Q BOX

Sky Q has a nifty money-saving trick that puts this popular set-top box into a deep slumber at night.

It's called "Eco" mode, and it can be found in the Preferences section of the settings. Sky says it's "recommended" that all users switch it on as the device then uses less power between the hours of 2.30am and 5:45am.

SAVVY SAVER
Google Nest

SMART THERMOSTAT

There's a simple way to reduce your heating bills. Smart thermostats, such as Google's Nest and Centrica's Hive, not only learn your daily routines but can also be fully controlled via your smartphone.

That means you can check the temperature when you are away and switch the heating on before you get back home.

You'll also see daily stats showing your usage and just how much you are spending on heating.

INTELLIGENT HEATER

If you only need to warm up a single room, you may find it best to purchase a simple heater.

Models by Dyson blow both hot and cold air around the room and can also filter out toxins simultaneously.

The latest Shark TurboBlade also offers Thermo IQ technology, which not only warms homes up in minutes but keeps things at the perfect temperature throughout the day.

Prices start from £349.

SMART LIGHTS

Switching out older energy-draining halogen bulbs and replacing them with smart lighting – such as Philips Hue or WiZ – is a very good idea.

These LED lights are not only cheaper to run but can also be set to go off automatically when you head to bed.

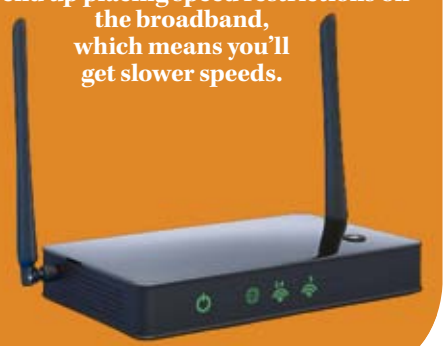
Another top tip is to install smart plugs, which can be used to turn off gadgets around the home via your phone or voice controls.

ROUTER

Turning devices off will save some money, but you definitely don't want to hit the power button on your wifi.

Routers should be left on at all times to ensure they receive regular security updates from providers. Switching things off every night can also send warning signals that something is wrong with the line, even though everything is fine.

If an internet service provider (ISP) thinks there's a problem, they can end up placing speed restrictions on the broadband, which means you'll get slower speeds.



TVs

Most TVs, including models made by Samsung and LG, have a useful energy mode.

Once this setting is activated, it automatically reduces consumption by making some simple changes to the display settings and brightness.

Some TVs will also turn off automatically after a certain amount of time, so if you fall asleep in front of the telly, the screen will as well, which is highly useful.

SMART
LG has energy mode

Looking up with next level drone

Award-winning Antigravity A1 allows you to see what's being shot in real time

Ever wanted a bird's-eye view of the world? The Antigravity A1 may look like any ordinary drone, but it has a clever trick up its sleeve. Strap the supplied goggles to your face, and you'll see exactly what the drone is filming in real time.

That means you can then whizz around the skies and feel just like a fighter pilot – there's even the option to overlay a virtual cockpit on the screen to add to the reality.

A simple Grip Motion controller makes it easy for anyone to fly, and there's a Freemotion mode, which lets you point at an area you want to visit, and the drone does the rest.

Smart Obstacle Avoidance ensures you don't crash into trees or buildings.

It can record stunning 360-degree 8K videos, and the battery lasts for around 30 minutes on a single charge.

Once you are done flying for the day, it even folds up neatly – and weighs just 249g.

It's already won a bunch of gongs, including the recent CES Innovation Award and Time Best Innovation Award.

Expect to pay around £1,200 if you fancy owning one.

STICK TO THE DRONE CODE

Don't get caught out when heading to the skies.

If you're considering buying a drone, there are a few simple rules to follow. The latest Drone Code issued by the Civil Aviation Authority, says you must stay below 120m (400 ft), always keep the drone in visual line of sight, and avoid restricted airspace such as airports and don't fly near crowds.

Remember, you must never put people in danger. Even small drones and model aircraft can injure people if not flown safely.

Shaking up your smartphone world

A trio of new phones has just been announced, with something to suit all tastes and pockets

1 MAGIC8 PRO

Chinese firm HONOR has just announced the UK release of its Magic8 Pro, which gets a SuperNight Camera for ultimate pictures in the dark. It's also powered by the latest Snapdragon 8 Elite Gen 5 processor, gets a pixel-packed 6.7in screen and has a massive battery with rapid charging. The HONOR Magic8 Pro costs £1,099.99 and is on sale now.

2 RAZR FOLD

A new bendy device from Motorola, the Razr Fold opens like a book to reveal a huge 8in tablet-style display. It will go on sale later this year – no confirmed price as yet.

3 CLICKS COMMUNICATOR

Finally, there's good news for anyone who misses their BlackBerry. A new concept called the Clicks Communicator has just been unveiled, which brings back the much-loved physical keyboard. This device also features a unique square screen and a light that glows when notifications arrive. It will launch later this year and costs £370.

GAMING NEWS

By **TOM HUTCHISON**

CASHING IN ON YOUR UNWANTED CONSOLES

Gamers have 49 million unused consoles gathering dust in their homes – and they're worth £4.14billion. After another rush of new technology over Christmas, families are increasingly accumulating old gadgets.

Around half of Brits reportedly received a video game console, accessory or game over the festive period. The biggest new arrival is the handheld Switch 2, which supersedes the much-loved but ageing original Switch from Nintendo. But PlayStation 5 and Xbox Series X consoles also dominated the present lists.

Virgin Media O2 is now trying to get people to trade them in for cash.

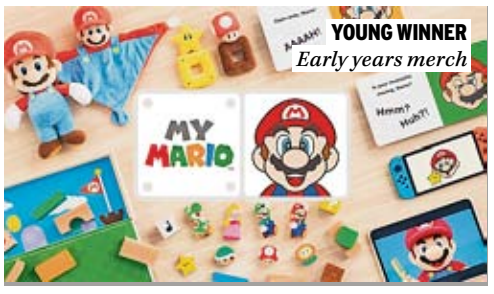
Dana Haidan, Chief Sustainability Officer at Virgin Media O2, says upgrades leave millions of us with mountains of reusable tech just sitting there gathering dust.

She says: "With millions of new consoles taking pride of place in gamers' homes this January, we know it can be overwhelming for Brits to know what to do with their unwanted gaming gadgets.

"That's why O2 Recycle exists, to keep consoles and other tech in use for longer, whether that's refurbishing and reselling them so they can be enjoyed by other gamers, or by ensuring they're responsibly recycled when reuse isn't possible."

Gamers can receive up to £160 for a PlayStation 5, up to £92 for a Nintendo Switch (OLED) and up to £110 for an Xbox Series X through the recycle scheme. It is open to anyone, regardless of their mobile network.

Since its launch in 2009, O2 Recycle has recycled more than four million devices and paid out £356million to consumers. Visit o2recycle.co.uk/trade/public



SCREEN-FREE NINTENDO

Nintendo is launching some fun new products, and there's not a console in sight. The My Mario collection is designed for younger family members, focusing on physical play rather than screen time.

There are wooden block sets featuring Mario and well-known items from the Super Mario series, along with soft toys by Simba.

There's also a free Hello, Mario! app for smart devices and Nintendo Switch launching that lets children engage and interact with Mario.

My Mario collection will officially arrive on My Nintendo Store on February 19.

MOTORING TESTED TRUSTED DRIVEN

EV2's got the Kia to success

Kia has revealed its entry into the B-segment electric SUV market with the EV2.

The EV2 is the firm's smallest electric model, which will rival the Ford Puma Gen-E, and will be Kia's second EV to be built in Europe.

The car's exterior utilises Kia's Opposites United design language with vertical LED daytime running lights, Kia's Star Map lighting signature, flush door handles, bold wheel arch extensions, roof bars, a rear spoiler and a kick-up rear window.

All versions will be compatible with DC rapid-charging, which will take the car from a 10 to 80% top-up in 30 minutes, though the manufacturer has not revealed charging speeds at this stage.

Prices, specifications and further details for the UK market will be revealed in due course, with the EV2 expected to go on sale later this year.

RENAULT FILANTE LUXURY LAUNCH

Renault has unveiled its new flagship SUV – and it marks a return to the luxury market.

Going on sale later in the year, the Filante – named after Renault's record-breaking single seat EV concept – is almost 15ft long and over 5ft high, and has a new hybrid powertrain system, teaming a 1.5-litre turbocharged petrol engine with an electric motor for a combined 247bhp and 565Nm of torque. It is equipped with ultra-slim headlights and an illuminated three-dimensional grille, inspired by Renault's diamond logo. There's a choice of 19in and 20in alloy wheels and a separate roof spoiler, for a sportier stance. There's a four-spoke steering wheel, three 12.3in displays and a 25.6in augmented head-up display inside.

The Filante will launch in Korea in March, followed by South America and the Gulf States next year. No word on the UK, yet.

LAND ROVER GETS A CHINESE RIVAL

Geely's Galaxy Cruiser looks set to open doors for more off-roaders from the Chinese brand.

First revealed at the Shanghai Motor Show last year in concept form – with more than a hint of a Land Rover – the Galaxy Cruiser uses a plug-in hybrid setup and is the first dedicated off-roader produced by Geely.

Having already handled brands such as Volvo, Lotus and Polestar, Geely is kickstarting its presence in the UK. The new Galaxy Cruiser marks a turning point as it expands beyond its range of SUVs and crossovers towards models more focused on off-road abilities.

Chief designer Flavian Bachet said the upcoming car draws on inspiration from "iconic models". And it's definitely going to launch here in the UK.

A Taylor Made grand concept

The DS No4 has received an extreme Formula E makeover with the Taylor Made No4 concept.

This wild creation has been developed to celebrate British racing driver Taylor Barnard joining DS Automobiles' DS Penske Formula E racing team.

The concept is based on a standard No4 and takes inspiration from Barnard's personal preferences. The exterior body features lots of titanium, while there are muscular rear haunches and flared wheel arches.

Interior images of the car have not been revealed at this stage, though it's anticipated that the interior will have lots of Formula E-inspired design elements. The Taylor Made No4 is just a concept for now, with no plans to put the car into production at this stage.

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Q3'S ALL GROWN UP

The Q3 has been a gateway to Audi ownership, and its latest generation also brings the added temptation of an incredible electric-only range

The Audi Q3 has always offered a premium-feeling take on the compact SUV platform. Launched in 2011, it quickly became a go-to choice for drivers who wanted an upmarket model with a decent level of space, but without the bulky exterior dimensions of a full-size SUV. And now we're on to the third-generation Q3.

WHAT'S NEW?

Substantial changes – the exterior has been brought closer in terms of styling to Audi's larger SUVs, while its interior now gets some of the technology you'd expect to find on far more expensive models from the German brand.

Audi has also deemed the Q3 the ideal test vehicle for its new steering wheel control unit. This introduces two new steering wheel-mounted levers – the right one acts as the gear selector, while the left houses light and windscreen wiper controls as well as the indicators. In doing so, Audi says that there's more storage space in the centre of the car.

WHAT'S UNDER THE BONNET?

A series of fuel-sipping engines. There's a four-cylinder petrol at the entry point of the range, rising to a 2.0-litre four-cylinder with 259bhp as the most powerful combustion option available. You can also get the Q3 with a diesel engine.

But we're testing out the plug-in hybrid model, or e-hybrid. It brings together a 1.5-litre turbocharged petrol engine with an electric motor and a 19.7kWh battery for a combined output of 268bhp but, most importantly, a claimed electric-only range of up to 70 miles – one of the longest from any plug-in hybrid today. Emissions are very low at 43g/km CO2, too, and while Audi does claim up to 150.1mpg, you'd need to be on electric-only power for nearly all of the time to achieve this.

FACTS

Audi Q3

Price: £51,800
Engine: 1.5-litre turbocharged petrol engine with hybrid assistance
Power: 268bhp
Torque: 330Nm
Max speed: 134mph
0-60mph: 6.5 seconds
MPG: 150.1
Emissions: 43g/km
Electric-only range: 70 miles
Maximum charge speed: 50kW

WHAT'S IT LIKE TO DRIVE?

More upmarket inside, and it's the same story for the driving experience. It's a polished affair, helped by the long electric range.

This gives it a quiet, smooth feeling, though battery power can be used at up to 87mph, too.

Things are slightly upset by a firm ride, but it's a common theme throughout this segment, with the 19in wheels of our test car seemingly extremely large for the type of car they're fitted to.

Visibility is pretty good, too, and because the Q3 sits quite square on the road, it's not too tricky to park. It does feel larger than ever, and so may take a little getting used to. At just over 1.8 tons, it's pretty heavy.

HOW DOES IT LOOK?

With its huge front badge and large grille, you can instantly tell it's an Audi. Thanks to its redesign, the Q3 feels more grown-up than ever and closer to the larger Q5 than before in terms of presence. There are plenty of neat touches, too, such as the intricate headlights and the large bash-plate-style trim piece at the front, which gives the Q3 a little bit of go-anywhere attitude.

WHAT'S IT LIKE INSIDE?

Spaciousness has improved. Rear-seat space is good, with decent levels of headroom and legroom in the back. The new steering column may be a slight reinvention, but it works well – the indicator switch is satisfying to operate.

Go for a standard petrol or diesel and you'll get 488 litres of boot space, whereas e-hybrid cars see this drop back to 375 litres. All models get sliding rear seats, so you can tailor things.

WHAT'S THE SPEC LIKE?

Prices start from £38,300 in entry-level Sport with the standard petrol engine. Standard equipment is good, with heated front seats, ambient lighting and a 12.8in curved infotainment display on all models. The screen is sharp and easy to operate.

Our e-hybrid model, with a few optional extras, came in at a hefty £51,800.

VERDICT

It's more complete than ever. Both inside and out, there's added refinement and comfort yet it hasn't lost sight of spaciousness and practicality. And despite the spike in price, the e-hybrid model could prove very cost-effective if you're able to charge at home.

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TODAY'S TV ONES TO WATCH

by **MIKE WARD** *TV critic*

Pick of the day

SPAIN WITH MICHAEL PORTILLO, 5, 8PM

HEADY DAYS *Michael needs some help finding a Basque beret*

BON VIVEUR STICKS WITH TRADITION

DO YOU know the difference between tapas and pinchos? If not – or if you think tapas are little Spanish snacks while pinchos are what Tom Daley used to wear – then you can find out by watching this latest part of Michael's Spanish adventure.

That, or you can save yourself the bother and just read the following sentence:

Basically, tapas are meant for sharing and pinchos aren't. It's a bit more complex than that, but not much.

I'd obviously adore the Basque region, then, which is where we find Michael tonight (hence his purchase of the traditional regional headgear), because food you don't have to share is my favourite food of all. And that's where pinchos are very much the thing, particularly if you partake in the Basque tradition of "chiquiteo", or "bar-hopping" (essentially, a fancy pub crawl).

Also significant is that a pincho tends to need a cocktail stick. Cocktail sticks scare and confuse me. For a start, what are you meant to do with them when you've eaten whatever's on them? Do they go in the ordinary bin or the recycling? They're just wood, aren't they? You don't put wood in the recycling bin, or we'd have put our old kitchen table in ours. Maybe you should put them in the dishwasher, to use again, but I bet they'd get stuck in the stupid filter.

It's a shame I'm so intimidated by them, because cocktail sticks (let me know if I'm off at a tangent here) have so many uses. Apparently, they're great for cleaning dust from electronic devices. Also, if you have a small disagreement with a neighbour – over noise, say, or parking – I'd imagine a cocktail stick can provide a simple means of resolving it, by enabling you to poke them in the eye.

Elsewhere, Michael learns about Basque rural sports. These feature various skills that traditional agricultural folk needed to learn, such as lifting rocks and chopping wood. The wood chopping is impressive, given the speeds competitors reach, stood astride a log at which they're hacking away like crazy with an axe. It must take them years to get so fast.

The winner, I believe, is whoever has the most toes remaining.

WINTERWATCH, BBC2, 7PM

HOW about this for a lovely idea? It's an episode of Winterwatch which, we're promised, will be entirely music-free. In every section of the programme, throughout the hour, whatever we see on screen will apparently be accompanied purely by "the authentic sounds of nature". Precisely what that means I guess we'll have to wait and see (Chris Packham might make quite a noise if he got bitten by a squirrel) but I'm sure it'll be blissful. Indeed, it's a pity the makers of other shows have never thought about music-free episodes. That said, Top Of The Pops in the early Nineties came jolly close some weeks.

LORRAINE KELLY'S NORWEGIAN ODYSSEY, C4, 8PM

FOR Lorraine, seeing the Northern Lights is a dream come true. But you don't always need to travel as far as she has.

One evening a few months ago, owing to some curious natural phenomenon that's way beyond my comprehension, they made an appearance in the sky above my own street. I kid you not. Apparently, they were spellbinding. I say "apparently" because I wasn't able to get up, step outside and witness them myself. They'd turned up just as that night's MasterChef was getting to a really good bit.

BEST DOC

LONG LOST FAMILY ITV1, 9PM

When he was 12, Scott discovered his mum was the woman he'd thought was his older sister. He had another sister who'd been adopted. Can Davina help him find her?

BEST NATURE

BEN FOGLE: NEW LIVES IN THE WILD 5, 9PM

Ben heads to the wilderness of Scandinavia to spend time with Tronde and Robert, who relocated to the Norwegian wilds later in life despite facing serious health challenges.

BEST COMEDY

BLACK OPS BBC1, 9.30PM

Dom (Gbemisola Ikumelo), ropes in Kay (Hammed Animashaun) to help gather evidence about Steve (Ed Speelers) and trace the spy to a mysterious lock-up.

BEST SITCOM

WHAT WE DO IN THE SHADOWS BBC2, 10PM

Nadja is getting annoyed with Laszlo's habit of storing body parts around the house. She suggests using the room under the stairs, but Nandor has converted it into a gym.

TODAY'S PREVIEWS ARE ON THE PREVIOUS PAGE

FILM RATINGS

★★★★★ BRILLIANT
★★★★ VERY GOOD
★★★ GOOD
★★ AVERAGE
★ BAD

(R) REPEAT

ALL PROGRAMMES ARE LISTED IN GREENWICH MEAN TIME (GMT).

BBC One

6.00am Breakfast News headlines.
9.30 Morning Live Magazine.
10.45 Rip Off Britain The residents of an apartment block unable to return home for five years.
11.30 Homes Under the Hammer Properties in central London, Stoke-on-Trent and Bath. (R)
12.15pm Bargain Hunt Caroline Hawley is in Shrewsbury. (R)
1.00 BBC News at One; Weather
2.00 Lost and Found in the Lakes The team searches for a cherished wedding ring.
2.30 Animal Park A lion's strength is tested. Last in series.
3.00 Escape to the Country Alistair Appleton helps a couple in East Sussex.
3.45 Garden Rescue (R)
4.30 The Travelling Auctioneers Izzie and Robin uncover some treasures to ease the financial pain of a couple's storage bill.
5.15 Pointless Quiz, hosted by Alexander Armstrong. (R)
6.00 BBC News at Six; Weather
6.30 Regional News; Weather
6.55 Party Political Broadcast By the Green Party. (R)

BBC Two

6.30am The Travelling Auctioneers (R)
7.15 Escape to the Country (R)
8.00 Sign Zone: Monty Don's Rhineland Gardens (R)
9.00 BBC News Headlines.
12.15pm Politics Live The latest from Westminster and beyond.
1.00 LIVE **Bowls: World Indoor Championships** Coverage from Potters Resorts at Hopton-on-Sea, Norfolk, featuring the ladies' singles final and an open singles last-16 match.
5.15 Flog It! Antiques experts visit the Oxford Union. (R)
6.00 Richard Osman's House of Games Nadia Jae, Tamzin Outhwaite, Nigel Planer and Steen Raskopoulos take part.
6.30 Robson Green's Weekend Escapes Robson joins Carol Smillie in the southern Scottish Highlands for a day of outdoor adventures. At Loch Earne, they head out in a traditional boat known as a coracle. They take a pottery lesson using Iron Age techniques to make clay pinch pots.

ITV1

6.00am Good Morning Britain A lively mix of news, current affairs and lifestyle features.
9.30 Lorraine Entertainment news.
10.00 This Morning Topical daily magazine, featuring a mix of celebrity chat, showbusiness news, advice and discussion. Including Local Weather.
12.30pm Loose Women Celebrity interviews and topical debate.
1.30 ITV News; Weather
1.55 Regional News; Weather
2.00 Dickinson's Real Deal David Dickinson and his team of dealers are in Coventry, where sellers bring in an unusual Ethiopian gold coin and a 19th century Mogul shield.
3.00 Time Is Money Quiz show, hosted by Sara Davies.
3.59 Regional Weather
4.00 Deal or No Deal Janet tries to open the 22 red boxes in the right order.
5.00 The Chase Quiz show.
6.00 Regional News; Weather
6.25 Party Political Broadcast By the Green Party.
6.30 ITV Evening News; Weather

Channel 4

6.25am Cheers Triple bill. (R)
7.50 Everybody Loves Raymond Triple bill of the comedy. (R)
9.10 Frasier Four episodes. (R)
11.10 American Pickers (R)
12.05pm Channel 4 News
12.10 Car S.O.S A 1968 Citroen. (R)
1.10 Find It, Fix It, Flog It Antique tractors in Co Antrim. (R)
2.10 Countdown Broadcaster Jo Good is in Dictionary Corner.
3.00 A Place in the Sun Leah Charles-King helps Claire and Judy find their dream holiday home in Chania, Crete. (R)
4.00 A New Life in the Sun Ian and Bev race to get their holiday let open for guests.
5.00 Junior Bake Off The semi-final sees things get fancy with Posh-Nosh Day. The bakers create a pudding fit for a queen and some 'sophisticated' biscuits.
6.00 A Place in the Sun Lee Juggurnauth helps a woman looking for a traditional holiday home in Crete, with sufficient space for her children and grandchildren to visit.

5

6.00am Milkshake! Children's TV.
9.15 Jeremy Vine Discussion.
11.30 Storm & Alexis Discussion.
12.45pm 5 News at Lunchtime
12.50 Matt Allwright Debate.
2.00 Vanessa Discussion show, presented by Vanessa Feltz.
3.00 The Madame Blanc Mysteries Gloria's dog discovers the body of a man with a fencing foil protruding from his chest, and in possession of a rare diamond-encrusted cufflink. Drama, starring Sally Lindsay. (R)
4.00 Bargain-Loving Brits in the Sun Former lorry driver Shane has big plans for his Costa Del Sol bar with his ex Chrissy, and Paul takes on a big catering job for a venue's 20th anniversary in Benidorm.
5.00 5 News at 5 Headlines.
6.00 The Travel Show: How to Have a Great Holiday Jane McDonald heads to Alaska on her first 'cold cruise', and Alexander Armstrong encounters horses unique to Iceland (R); 5 News Update

9.30pm, BLACK OPS: Gbemisola Ikumelo and Hammed Animashaun

6.30pm, ROBSON GREEN'S WEEKEND...: Carol Smillie (left)

5pm, THE CHASE: Bradley Walsh

5pm, JUNIOR BAKE OFF: Liam Charles, Ravneet Gill and Harry Hill

8pm, SPAIN WITH MICHAEL PORTILLO: Michael Portillo

7

7.00 The One Show With Alex Jones and Roman Kemp.
7.30 EastEnders Phil prepares to take Nigel to Portugal after Sam's operation that day. When Ian and Elaine's feud steps up another gear, Harvey intervenes to strike a truce.

7.00 Winterwatch In this music-free episode, every part of the programme is accompanied only by the authentic sounds of nature. At Mount Stewart, the team are keeping their eyes and ears peeled for the presence of an elusive otter.

7.30 Wellness: What Really Works? Tonight With the UK's wellness industry now thought to be worth more than £170 billion, Charlotte Hawkins finds out whether some of the latest trends are as effective as they claim.

7.00 Channel 4 News A round-up of all the latest headlines, in-depth interviews and analysis of political developments and current affairs. Plus, the day's leading sports stories and up-to-the-minute weather reports.

7.00 Will You Get Dementia? Dr Claire Taylor learns more about the disease as she speaks to patients living with dementia, discovers how tests can reveal early signs and asks what can be done to prevent it. (R); 5 News Update

8

8.00 The Traitors The penultimate day in the castle commences with a mission offering a unique opportunity to the faithful. However, with time running out to build the prize pot, it seems that they might buckle under the pressure.

8.00 Your Home Made Perfect Damion Burrows and Lizzie Fraher compete to remodel Natasha and Gael's home in Leigh-on-Sea, Essex, which has a dark and claustrophobic downstairs layout that makes gatherings impossible. (R)

8.00 Emmerdale Ray prepares to dispose of the body.
8.30 Coronation Street Kit explains to Shona that Jodie is running away from somebody, Will implores Megan to dump Daniel, and Lisa has only hazy memories of the night before.

8.00 Lorraine Kelly's Norwegian Odyssey In Norway, the veteran presenter witnesses the spectacular Northern Lights. Later, she sails through one of the world's most beautiful archipelagos, the Lofoten Islands.

8.00 Spain with Michael Portillo Michael travels to the northern Basque region, home to two of Spain's most exciting cities, Bilbao and San Sebastian. Starting in Bilbao, Michael joins locals Irene and Olaia in search of local finger food.

9

9.00 The Traitors: Uncloaked Analysis of the latest episode with Ed Gamble and guests.
9.30 Black Ops Dom ropes in Kay to help her gather evidence about Steve, and the pair trace him to a mysterious lock-up. Tevin piles on the pressure.

9.00 Rob and Rylan's Grand Tour The duo go on a cultural tour of Rome, turning themselves into a painting by Caravaggio, trying to get the classic Grand Tourist look, and discovering the story of the singers known as castrati. Last in series. (R)

9.00 Long Lost Family Davina McCall and Nicky Campbell investigate the cases of Scott, who discovered aged 12 that his mum and dad were actually his grandparents, and Jackie, who found out her mum had another daughter.

9.00 Patience A woman is found dead under a poisonous tree in the botanical gardens with her face strangely burned. Patience and Frankie disagree over likely events leading to her death and, as resentments boil over, the pair fall out.

9.00 Ben Fogle: New Lives in the Wild Ben ventures into the forested wilderness of Scandinavia to stay with artists Tronde, a 69-year-old Norwegian, and Robert, his 61-year-old Lebanese friend and business partner.

10

10.00 BBC News at Ten
10.30 Regional News; Weather
10.40 Question Time Fiona Bruce presents the topical debate, inviting a panel of politicians and other guests in Macclesfield, Cheshire, to answer questions from an invited audience on subjects making the headlines.

10.00 What We Do in the Shadows A dispute over the newly available empty room gets out of control.
10.25 Tiger Dynasty: Natural World Following two tigers released into the wild. (R)
10.30 Newsnight; Weather

10.00 ITV News at Ten; Weather
10.30 Regional News; Weather
10.45 Killer in the House: The Murder of Nicholas Billingham The case of primary school teacher Fiona Beal, who killed her partner Nicholas Billingham. (R)

10.00 Palestine Action: The Truth Behind the Ban: Dispatches Matt Shea investigates the truth about protest group Palestine Action and why the Government felt the need to proscribe them alongside Isis and neo-Nazis.

10.00 Body in the Snow: The Murder of Joanna Yeates Factual crime documentary examining the murder of landscape architect Joanna Yeates in December 2010, and the subsequent hunt for her killer. The programme explores the extensive police investigation and media attention that surrounded the case in forensic detail, including testimony from key witnesses, police detectives and others at the heart of the case. (R)

11

11.40 Newscast A panel of BBC journalists hosts a weekly round-up from Westminster, delivering a mix of serious analysis and gossip about the biggest stories in politics.

11.05 Lucy Worsley's Victorian Murder Club The historian reveals that the trail had gone cold, until a fifth corpse was discovered 12 years after the last murder. Her hunt ends with a convincing prime suspect. Last in series. (R)

11.40 Millionaire Hot Seat Jeremy Clarkson hosts a quiz in which six hopefuls compete for £1,000,000, with only one player at a time able to take a place in the Hot Seat and answer questions to work the way up the Money Ladder. (R)

11.00 24 Hours in Police Custody Investigates: Zombie Knives An investigation into the epidemic of knife crime violence that left 97 young people murdered in 2025, 17 of whom were under the age of 16. (R)

12 MIDNIGHT

12.10am The Weakest Link. Steve Pemberton, Cherry Healey, Sian Welby, Jason Mohammad, Ashley Storrie, Dean McCullough, Sanjeev Kohli and Charley Marlowe compete to be the strongest link. (R) **12.55** Weather for the Week Ahead. A look at the latest forecast. **1.00-6.00am** BBC News

12.05am Sign Zone: Gladiators. Giant has the battle of his life, and a new event is unveiled. (R) **1.05** Sign Zone: Robson Green's Weekend Escapes (R) **1.35** Sign Zone: Call the Midwife (R) **2.35** Sign Zone: Waiting for the Out (R) **3.30** Sign Zone: The Traitors (R) **4.30-6.30am** This Is BBC Two

12.05am Shop on TV **3.00** Jimmy & Shivi's Farmhouse Breakfast. Jimmy Doherty and Shivi Ramoutar are joined in the kitchen by impressionist Matt Forde for a breakfast of chicken and biscuits and a pudding of pineapple fritters. (R) **3.50** Unwind with ITV **5.05-6.00am** Deal or No Deal (R)

12.05am In the Footsteps of Killers (R) **1.05** Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA (R) **1.55** Four Kings (R) **3.35** Find It, Fix It, Flog It (R) **3.55** Couples Come Dine with Me (R) **4.50** Kirstie and Phil's Love It or List It (R) **5.45-6.25am** Countdown. Broadcaster Jo Good is in Dictionary Corner. (R)

12.00m't My Lover, My Killer (R) **1.00** PlayOJO Live Casino Show **3.00** Ice Age: A Frozen World (R) **3.50** Save Money on Your Supermarket Shop (R) **4.35** The Highland Vet (R) **5.25** Entertainment News on 5 **5.35** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom (R) **5.45-6.00am** Milo (R)

ITV2 FREEVIEW 6

6.00am CITV **7.30** Celebrity Dinner Date **8.30** Olivia Meets Her Match **9.25** The Only Way Is Essex **10.25** The Real Housewives of Miami **11.20** The Real Housewives of Beverly Hills **12.15pm** Dinner Date **1.15** Celebrity Dinner Date **2.15** The Only Way Is Essex **3.15** The Real Housewives of Orange County **4.10** The Real Housewives of Miami **5.00** The Real Housewives of Beverly Hills

6.00 Celebrity Catchphrase With Joanna Page, Mo Gilligan and Naga Munchetty.

7.00 Deal or No Deal Gameshow.

8.00 The Real Housewives of Orange County Things take a turn when the ladies go to London for Shannon's 60th.

9.00 Love Island: All Stars Famous former Islanders get another shot at finding love.

10.05 Piglets Geeta resorts to subterfuge.

10.35 Family Guy Double bill.

11.35 American Dad! **12.35am** Bob's Burgers **1.35** Olivia Attwood's Bad Boyfriends **2.35-3.00am** Unwind

ITVQuiz FREEVIEW 28

9.00am Deal or No Deal **10.00** Tipping Point **1.00pm** Lingo **2.00** Tenable **3.00** In with a Shout **4.00** Riddiculous **5.00** Deal or No Deal. Stephen Mulhern hosts.

6.00 Lingo Triple bill. Kevin and Ian, Bailey and Jo, and Kevin and Karen compete; Jack and Isaac, Lisanne and Carole and Bryony and Alison compete; David and Matthew, Claire and Kayleigh and Saifo and Kakul compete in the word game.

9.00 Alan Carr's Epic Gameshow The comedian hosts an updated version of classic darts-themed gameshow Bullseye, in which contestants hope to win big prizes in the Epic Endgame.

10.00 Tipping Point Triple bill. Ben Shephard hosts the quiz in which four players take on an extraordinary machine in the hope of winning a £10,000 jackpot.

12.50am Tenable. A team of five quizzing friends, who go by the name of Wright's Young Things, take part. **1.45** Unwind with ITV **2.00-9.00am** Teleshopping

BBC3 FREEVIEW 23

7.00pm The Catch Up The news.

7.05 SpongeBob SquarePants

7.30 Sort Your Life Out with Stacey Solomon The Jamieson family from East Sussex enlist help as they try to declutter the home that's been in their family for 40 years.

8.30 Stacey Dooley: Costa del Narcos The presenter reports on how southern Spain has become the main gateway for drugs into Europe.

9.30 Our Girl Double bill. Georgie and 2 Section are sent to Nepal following a devastating earthquake; 2-section discover that Georgie is missing.

11.30 *FILM* **Kindling** (2023, 12) Coming-of-age drama, starring George Somner. ★★★★★

1.00am The Beauty Queen and the Catfish **1.45** Dating Apps: The Inside Story **2.45** Press X on the BBC **2.55-3.55am** Stacey Dooley: Costa del Narcos

BBC4 FREEVIEW 9

7.00pm Great British Railway Journeys Michael Portillo enjoys theatre, sculpture and knife-making as he crosses the Peak District.

7.30 Wainwright Walks Julia Bradbury climbs Crinkle Crags.

8.00 The Stuarts in Exile Part two of two. How the Jacobite campaign occured on a European-wide stage.

9.00 Wogan With Moira Shearer, Gillian Lynne, James Ivory, Hayley Mills and Kit Harvey. From 1987.

9.40 Moira Shearer – The Reluctant Star: ArtWorks Scotland The life and work of ballerina Moira Shearer.

10.10 *FILM* **The Red Shoes** (1948, U) Powell and Pressburger's drama, with Moira Shearer, Anton Walbrook and Marius Goring. ★★★★★

12.20am *FILM* The Elephant Man (1980, 12) David Lynch's fact-based drama, starring John Hurt. ★★★★★ **2.20-3.20am** The Stuarts in Exile

GB News FREEVIEW 236

6.00am Breakfast with Stephen and Ellie **9.30** Britain's Newsroom **12.00noon** Good Afternoon Britain **3.00** Martin Daubney. An up-to-the-minute take on the day's events.

6.00 Dewbs & Co Plain-speaking, straight-talking – Michelle Dewberry delivers her take on the day's news.

7.00 Farage An action-packed hour of topical discussion and debate.

8.00 Jacob Rees-Mogg's State Of The Nation Join Jacob for his unique and unmissable take on the news.

9.00 Patrick Christys Tonight Replay Join Patrick for two hours of spirited debate and news making interviews, with a sharp take on every story.

11.00 Patrick Christys Tonight Late Edition Discussion and debate.

12.00m't The Late Show Live **2.00** Farage Replay **3.00** Patrick Christys Tonight Replay **5.00-6.00am** Patrick Christys Tonight Late Edition

U&Dave FREEVIEW 19

7.10am World's Most Dangerous Roads **8.00** Border Force: America's Gatekeepers **10.00** Guy Martin: Proper Jobs **11.00** Rick Stein's India **12.00noon** Bangers & Cash **2.00** Robson's Extreme Fishing Challenge **3.00** Top Gear **5.00** Hairy Bikers' Best of British

6.00 Rick Stein's India Rick meets India's first MasterChef winner in Lucknow.

7.00 Would I Lie to You? Miles Jupp, Heston Blumenthal, Emilia Fox and Ed Byrne join David Mitchell and Lee Mack.

7.40 Richard Osman's House of Games

9.00 QI XL Rob Brydon, Phill Jupitus, Cal Wilson and Alan Davies try to come up with interesting answers to questions.

10.00 Have I Got a Bit More News for You With host Jess Phillips and panellists Jon Richardson and Hannah Fry.

11.00 Taskmaster: Champion of Champions A two-part special.

12.00m't Mock the Week **12.40** Would I Lie to You? **2.00-4.00am** Not Going Out

U&Drama FREEVIEW 20

6.00am Teleshopping **7.25** The Bill **8.15** Doctors **9.25** Classic Holby City **10.30** Classic Casualty **11.35** The Bill **12.35pm** Classic EastEnders **1.55** All Creatures Great and Small **2.55** Howards' Way **4.05** Bergerac **5.05** One Foot in the Grave

6.00 To the Manor Born Audrey organises a protest rally. Richard Thorp guest stars.

6.40 Last of the Summer Wine Double bill.

8.00 Kingdom A trawlerman enlists the help of Kingdom and Kingdom when an insurance company refuses to settle his claim. Beatrice makes a big impression.

9.00 Harry Wild Harry and Fergus deal with a rival private detective, a gangster's henchman, and a baffling mystery.

10.00 New Tricks An investigation leaves Sasha facing a moral dilemma.

11.20 Waking the Dead Part two of two. Kelleher takes Hooper hostage.

12.40am Hotel Portofino **1.50** One Foot in the Grave **2.35** To the Manor Born **3.05** Harry Wild **4.00-6.00am** Teleshopping

E4 FREEVIEW 13

6.00am Modern Family **6.55** Rude(ish) Tube Shorts **7.00** Junior Bake Off **8.00** Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA **9.00** The Goldbergs **10.00** Modern Family **11.00** Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA **1.00pm** Brooklyn Nine-Nine **2.00** The Simpsons **3.00** The Goldbergs **4.00** Modern Family **5.00** Brooklyn Nine-Nine

6.00 The Simpsons Four episodes.

8.00 Britain's Most Expensive Houses The work of top-tier estate agents across the UK. Josh Marks lists a penthouse.

9.00 Gogglebox Double bill. Critiques of The Apprentice and Coronation Street; shows include The 1% Club, Is It Cake?, Casualty and The Yorkshire Farm.

11.05 Open House: The Great Sex Experiment Brendon and Priya want to explore Priya's bisexuality.

12.15am Naked Attraction. Dating show. **1.20** Gogglebox **3.15** Britain's Most Expensive Houses **4.05** The Goldbergs **4.55-6.00am** Don't Tell the Bride

More4 FREEVIEW 18

8.55am Food Unwrapped **9.30** Find It, Fix It, Flog It **10.25** A Place in the Sun **11.30** Come Dine with Me: five episodes **2.10pm** Four in a Bed: five episodes **4.50** A Place in the Sun **5.55** Car S.O.S

6.55 Car S.O.S Tim Shaw and Fuzz Townshend take on a Citroen HY Van.

7.55 The Dog House Two very different puppies are offered to couple Sonia and Andy and their two little girls.

9.00 Britain's Favourite Railway Stations with Si King This episode celebrates Britain's shore and coastal stations.

10.00 New Zealand by Train Part two of two. Train journeys along the length of New Zealand's North Island.

11.05 24 Hours in A&E An 80-year-old woman is seen by doctors after falling and sustaining an open fracture to her leg.

12.10am 24 Hours in A&E. Documentary. **1.15** Britain's Favourite Railway Stations with Si King **2.20** 24 Hours in A&E **3.25-3.55am** Food Unwrapped

Variations & S4C

WALES As BBC1 except: 1.35-1.45pm BBC Wales Today; Weather **6.30** BBC Wales Today; Weather **6.55-7.00** Party Political Broadcast **10.30-10.40pm** BBC Wales Today; Weather

WALES As BBC2 except: 10.00-10.30pm Scrum V: The Warm Up. Reaction to Wales' squad selection. **11.05** Beacons: Short Films from Wales **11.15** What We Do in the Shadows **11.45pm-12.05am** The Fens: A Wild Year

MERIDIAN As ITV1 except: 1.55-2.00pm ITV News Meridian; Weather **6.00-6.25** ITV News Meridian. The latest headlines; Weather **10.30-10.45pm** ITV News Meridian; Weather

CENTRAL As ITV1 except: 1.55-2.00pm ITV News Central; Weather **6.00-6.25** ITV News Central. The latest headlines; Weather **10.30-10.45pm** ITV News Central; Weather

ITV WALES As ITV1 except: 1.55-2.00pm ITV News Cymru Wales; Weather **6.00** ITV News Wales at Six. The latest headlines; Weather **6.25-6.30** Party Political Broadcast **10.30-10.45pm** ITV News Cymru Wales; Weather

WEST As ITV1 except: 1.55-2.00pm ITV News West Country. The latest headlines; Weather **6.00-6.25** ITV News West Country; Weather **10.30-10.45pm** ITV News West Country

ANGLIA As ITV1 except: 1.55-2.00pm ITV News Anglia; Weather **6.00-6.25** ITV News Anglia. The latest headlines; Weather **10.30-10.45pm** ITV News Anglia; Weather

WESTCOUNTRY As ITV1 except: 1.55-2.00pm ITV News West Country; Weather **6.00-6.25** ITV News West Country; Weather **10.30-10.45pm** ITV News West Country. A round-up of the latest headlines; Weather

S4C 6.00am Cyw **12.00noon** Newyddion S4C a'r Tywydd **12.05pm** Dim Byd i'w Wisgo **12.30** Heno **1.00** Rhys Patchell: Japan a'r Gic Olaf **1.30** Y Deis **2.00** Newyddion S4C a'r Tywydd **2.05** Prynhawn Da **3.00** Newyddion S4C a'r Tywydd **3.05** Taith Bywyd **4.00** Awr Fawr **5.00** Stwnsh **6.00** Gwlad y Basg: Gwilym Bowen Rhys **6.25** Y Cyfweliad **6.57** Newyddion S4C **7.00** Heno **7.30** Newyddion S4C a'r Tywydd **8.00** Pobol y Cwm **8.25** Rownd a Rownd. Jason is eager to receive some tuition help. **8.55** Newyddion S4C a'r Tywydd **9.00** Y Byd yn ei Le **9.45** Cynefin **10.45** Cysgu O Gwmpas **11.15-11.45pm** Cymru ar Gyffuriau

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SCAN ME

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Sport

SKY SPORTS MAIN EVENT

6.00am LIVE **DP World Tour Golf** The Hero Dubai Desert Classic. Coverage of the featured groups on day one of the tournament from Emirates Golf Club in the United Arab Emirates.
7.30 LIVE **DP World Tour Golf** The Hero Dubai Desert Classic. Day one of the tournament from Emirates Golf Club in the United Arab Emirates.
1.30pm Lunchtime Live **2.00** Sports Desk
3.30 LIVE **SA20** The Eliminator play-off match.
7.00 The Transfer Show. The latest news.
7.30 LIVE **EFL** Lincoln City v Burton Albion (kick-off 8.00pm). Coverage from LNER Stadium.
10.30 LIVE **PGA Tour Golf** The American Express. Further coverage of day one of the tournament from the Pete Dye Stadium Course at La Quinta.
12.00m't Sky Sports News. The sports news.
4.00-6.00am LIVE **DP World Tour Golf** The Hero Dubai Desert Classic. Coverage of the featured groups on day two from Emirates Golf Club.

SKY SPORTS CRICKET

6.00am Big Bash League **7.00** Best of ICC WT20
7.15 LIVE **ICC Under-19s World Cup Cricket** South Africa v West Indies. The Group D match at High Performance Oval in Windhoek, Namibia.
3.00pm Best of J Anderson: 500th Wicket. Jimmy Anderson claims his 500th Test wicket for England in 2017. **3.10** Best of Sky Cricket
3.20 LIVE **SA20** The Eliminator play-off match.
7.00 Best of England v South Africa **7.15** Best of ICC WT20 **7.30** Best of ICC WT20 **7.45** Best of ICC WT20 **8.00** WPL **9.00** SA20 **10.00** SA20 **11.00** SA20 **12.00m't** WPL **1.00** SA20 **2.00** Big Bash League **5.20** Best of J Anderson: 500th Wicket **5.30** Best of England v South Africa **5.45-6.00am** Best of ICC WT20

SKY SPORTS FOOTBALL

6.00am EFL Cup Retro **8.45** EFL Greatest Games **9.30** Championship Season Review **11.00** Best Goals: EFL Cup 24/25 **11.30** EFL Trophy Football **12.00noon** EFL Highlights **2.30** EFL League One Goals **3.00** EFL League Two Goals **3.30** Bundesliga Highlights Show **4.30** EFL Highlights **6.30** Bundesliga Weekly **7.00** Bundesliga Special: Harry Kane
7.30 LIVE **EFL** Lincoln City v Burton Albion (kick-off 8.00pm). Coverage from the LNER Stadium.
10.30 Bundesliga Special: Harry Kane **11.00** EFL League Two Goals **11.30** EFL Greatest Games
12.00m't SPFL Special: Celtic's Invincibles **1.00** SPFL **1.30-6.00am** SPFL Greatest Games

SKY SPORTS GOLF

6.00am LIVE **DP World Tour Golf** The Hero Dubai Desert Classic. The featured groups on day one.
7.30 LIVE **DP World Tour Golf** The Hero Dubai Desert Classic. Day one of the tournament.
1.30pm TGL **3.30** DP World Tour Golf
4.30 LIVE **PGA Tour Golf** The American Express.
12.00m't DP World Tour Golf. The Hero Dubai Desert Classic. **1.00** PGA Tour FedEx Cup Playoffs Official Film 2025 **2.00** PGA Tour Golf
4.00-6.00am LIVE **DP World Tour Golf** The Hero Dubai Desert Classic. The featured groups.

TNT SPORTS 1

7.00am LIVE **Australian Open** Further coverage of day five of the opening Grand Slam event of the year, featuring second-round matches.
8.30 LIVE **One Day International Cricket** Sri Lanka v England. The first match of the series, held at R. Premadasa Stadium in Colombo.
5.00pm LIVE **UEFA Europa League** Fenerbahce v Aston Villa (kick-off 5.45pm). The matchday seven fixture at Sükrü Saracoglu Stadium.
7.45 LIVE **UEFA Europa League** SC Braga v Nottingham Forest (kick-off 8.00pm).
10.30 UEFA Europa & Conference League Highlights **11.15** Fight Week **12.00m't** Premier League – The Big Interview. With Harry Wilson.
12.30 LIVE **Australian Open** Coverage of day six of the opening Grand Slam event of the year, featuring third-round matches at Melbourne Park.
3.30 TNT Sports Reload. The best bits. **3.45** One Day International Cricket. Sri Lanka v England.
4.45-8.15am LIVE **T20 Super Smash** Canterbury Kings v Wellington Firebirds. Coverage of the match at Hagley Oval in Christchurch.

TNT SPORTS 2

6.00am UEFA Champions League Highlights Show **7.00** UEFA Europa League & Conference League Magazine **7.30** Premier League Netbusters **8.00** Premier League Stories **8.30** Serie A – Full Impact **9.00** International T20 Cricket Highlights **10.00** UEFA Champions League **2.30pm** UEFA Europa League & Conference League Magazine **3.00** Match Officials Mic'd Up **3.30** Premier League – The Big Interview. An interview with Harry Wilson.
4.00 LIVE **World Ski Flying Championship** Coverage of the qualifying for the first event of the season, which takes place in Oberstdorf, Germany.
5.00 LIVE **UEFA Europa League** Bologna v Celtic (kick-off 5.45pm). Coverage of the league phase match from Stadio Renato Dall'Ara.
7.45 LIVE **UEFA Europa League** Rangers v Ludogorets (kick-off 8.00pm). Coverage of the league phase match from Ibrox Stadium.
10.30 One Day International Cricket **11.30** International T20 Cricket Highlights
12.30am UEFA Europa League **3.30** UEFA Champions League Highlights Show **5.30-6.00am** Discovery Golf

Entertainment & Factual

ITV3 Freeview 10

6.00am Never the Twain **6.35** On the Buses **7.05** Classic Emmerdale **8.05** Classic Coronation Street **9.10** Inspector Morse **11.20** Heartbeat **1.30pm** Foyle's War **3.40** Classic Emmerdale **4.40** Classic Coronation Street **5.50** Heartbeat **8.00** Vera **10.00** Foyle's War **11.50** Trial & Retribution **1.55-2.30am** Unwind with ITV

ITV4 Freeview 26

6.00am The Big Match Revisited **8.10** Magnum, PI **9.10** Kojak **10.15** Boon **11.25** The Sweeney **12.30pm** Robin of Sherwood **1.40** Magnum, PI **2.40** Kojak **3.50** Boon **4.55** The Sweeney **6.00** Minder **7.05** American Pickers **8.00** Ice Road Truckers **10.00** FILM Kill Bill: Volume 2 (2004/18) Revenge thriller sequel. ★★★★★ **12.40am** Ligue 1 Highlights **1.10** Berlin Station **2.05** Auto Mundial **2.35** Unwind **3.00** Teleshopping **3.30-4.00am** Motorsport Mundial

5STAR Freeview 32

8.00am Bargain-Loving Brits in the Sun **10.00** Shoplifters: Caught Red Handed **11.00** Traffic Cops **2.00pm** Police Interceptors **5.00** Call the Bailiffs: Time to Pay Up **6.00** Home and Away **7.00** Casualty 24/7: Every Second Counts **8.00** GPs: Behind Closed Doors. Patients include Nicholas, who is suffering from painful testicular swelling. **9.00** A&E After Dark. Documentary. **10.00** Ambulance: Code Red **11.00** Skin A&E **12.00m't** Call the Bailiffs: Time to Pay Up **1.00** Nightmare Tenants, Slum Landlords **2.00** VC Andrews' Heaven **3.30** Car Pound Cops **3.55-4.00am** Entertainment News on 5

REALLY Freeview 44

6.00am Fantasy Homes by the Sea **7.00** Cruise TV with LoveitBookit **8.00** Escape to the Country **9.00** Salvage Hunters **12.00noon** Antiques Road Trip **2.00** The Repair Shop **3.00** The Yorkshire Auction House **4.00** Long Lost Family **5.00** A Place in the Sun **6.00** Salvage Hunters **9.00** Ghost Adventures **10.00** Help! My House Is Haunted **2.00am** Teleshopping **4.00-6.00am** Salvage Hunters

5ACTION Freeview 33

9.00am Trucking Hell **9.15** Traffic Cops **10.15** Police Interceptors **12.15pm** FILM Red Mountain (1951/PG) ★★ **2.10** FILM Day of Anger (1967/15) ★★ **4.00** The Motorway **5.00** Traffic Cops **6.00** Police Interceptors **8.00** Motorway Cops: Catching Britain's Speeders **9.00** Mud Mountain Haulers **10.00** Outback Truckers **11.00** Banged Up Abroad **12.00m't** World's Deadliest Weather: Caught on Camera **1.00-2.05am** Ice Road Truckers

SKY ARTS Freeview 36

6.00am Darbar Festival 2025 : The Anniversary **7.00** Darbar Festival 2025: India's Vanishing Voice **8.20** The Joy of Painting **8.55** Tales of the Unexpected **10.00** Alfred Hitchcock Presents **11.00** The Directors **12.00noon** Discovering: Kevin Bacon **1.00** Tales of the Unexpected **2.00** The Art of the Garden **3.00** DH Lawrence: Sex, Exile and Greatness **4.00** The Directors **5.00** Discovering: Octavia Spencer **6.00** Tales of the Unexpected **7.00** Landscape Artist of the Year 2026. The second heat in St James's Park in the City of Westminster.

Live: One-Day International Cricket
TNT Sports 1, 8.30am
The three-match series between Sri Lanka and England gets under way in Colombo. Will the tourists' leading spinner Adil Rashid (left) be in the wickets today?

8.00 Discovering: Harrison Ford **9.00** FILM Roustabout (1964/U) Musical, starring Elvis Presley. ★★★ **11.00** Strange Journey: The Rocky Horror Picture Show **1.00am** The Directors **2.00** Punchdrunk: Behind the Mask **3.00** Science Fiction in the Atomic Age **4.00** Sky Arts Book Club **5.00-6.00am** National Treasures: The Art of Collecting

U&GOLD

7.30am Ever Decreasing Circles **8.10** The Green Green Grass **8.50** Dad's Army: The Lost Episodes **9.25** Are You Being Served? **10.05** Open All Hours **10.45** Keeping Up Appearances **11.25** Last of the Summer Wine **12.45pm** The Green Green Grass **1.25** Ever Decreasing Circles **2.05** Dad's Army: The Lost Episodes **2.45** Are You Being Served? **3.25** Open All Hours **4.00** Ever Decreasing Circles **4.40** Last of the Summer Wine **6.00** Fawlty Towers **6.40** Open All Hours **7.20** Dad's Army **8.00** Fawlty Towers **9.20** The Thin Blue Line **10.00** Men Behaving Badly **10.35** Fawlty Towers **12.00m't** The Thin Blue Line **12.35** Men Behaving Badly **1.10** Fawlty Towers **2.40** The Thin Blue Line **3.10-4.00am** Men Behaving Badly

U&YESTERDAY Freeview 27

6.10am Great British Railway Journeys **8.00** Bangers & Cash **10.00** Rise of the Nazis: The Manhunt **11.00** World War Weird **12.00noon** Antiques Roadshow **2.00** Bangers & Cash **4.00** Rise of the Nazis: The Manhunt **5.00** World War Weird **6.00** Antiques Roadshow **7.00** Great Canal Journeys **8.00** Bangers & Cash **9.00** Flipping Bangers. Gus and Will set out to buy a Honda-based Rover 800 coupe. At £650 it seems too good to be true. **10.00** Bangers & Cash **1.00am** Abandoned Engineering **2.00-3.00am** Rise of the Nazis: The Manhunt

U&ALIBI

7.15am Murdoch Mysteries **9.00** Father Brown **10.00** The Mentalist **11.00** Hudson & Rex **12.00noon** Miss Fisher's Murder Mysteries **1.00** Death in Paradise **2.00** Murdoch Mysteries **4.00** The Mentalist **5.00** Hudson & Rex **6.00** Father Brown **7.00** Miss Fisher's Murder Mysteries **8.00** Death in Paradise **10.00** Annika **11.00** Father Brown **12.00m't** So Help Me Todd **1.00** Death in Paradise **2.00-4.00am** Murdoch Mysteries

SKY MAX

6.00am Hawaii Five-0 **8.00** The Flash **9.00** Stargate SG-1 **11.00** SEAL Team **12.00noon** The Flash **1.00** Hawaii Five-0 **3.05** S.W.A.T **4.10** NCIS: Los Angeles **5.15** SEAL Team **6.15** Stargate SG-1: double bill **8.15** Never Mind the Buzzcocks **9.00** Rob & Romesh vs Team GB: Winter Special **10.00** Evil: double bill **12.00m't** Fear the Walking Dead **1.00** The Force: North East **2.00** Road Wars **3.00** S.W.A.T **4.00** NCIS: Los Angeles **5.00-6.00am** Highway Patrol

SKY ATLANTIC

6.00am Urban Secrets **7.00** Richard E Grant's Hotel Secrets **8.00** Boardwalk Empire **10.10** The Sopranos **12.20pm** Game of Thrones **2.30** The Wire **4.40** Westworld **5.55** Deadwood **6.55** Game of Thrones **9.00** The Last of Us **10.05** A Knight of the Seven Kingdoms **10.55** Deadwood **12.00m't** The Sopranos **2.10** Game of Thrones **4.35** In Treatment **5.05-6.00am** Fish Town

SKY WITNESS

6.00am UK Border Force **7.00** Nothing to Declare **8.00** Border Patrol **9.00** Send in the Dogs **10.00** Border Security: Canada's Front Line **11.00** A1: Britain's Longest Road **12.00noon** FBI **1.00** The Rookie **3.00** Stop, Search, Se0ize **4.00** Nothing to Declare **7.00** Police 24/7 **8.00** Law & Order: Criminal Intent **9.00** The Equalizer **10.00** Law & Order: Special Victims Unit **11.00** The Rookie **12.00m't** FBI **1.00** Law & Order: Criminal Intent **2.00** Law & Order: Organized Crime **3.00** Law & Order: Criminal Intent **4.00** Road Wars **5.00-6.00am** Send in the Dogs

SKY COMEDY

8.00am Will & Grace **9.00** Ballers **10.20** Sex and the City **11.30** Entourage **12.30pm** Will & Grace **1.25** Sex and the City **3.00** Ballers **3.35** And Just Like That **4.30** The Office (US) **5.30** Will & Grace **6.30** Community **7.30** Sex and the City **9.00** Rose Matafeo: On and On and On **10.15** And Just Like That **11.10** Community **12.10am** Entourage **1.15** Ballers **2.25-3.35am** Curb Your Enthusiasm

DISCOVERY

6.00am How Do They Do It? **7.00** Junkyard Empire **9.00** Gold Rush **11.00** Diesel Brothers **1.00pm** Deadliest Catch **3.00** How Do They Do It? **5.00** Alaska: Homestead Rescue **7.00** Wheeler Dealers **9.00** Marooned with Ed Stafford. Ed navigates razor-sharp rocks. **10.00** In the Eye of the Storm **11.00** Expedition Unknown **12.00m't** Deadliest Catch **1.00** Marooned with Ed Stafford **2.00** In the Eye of the Storm **3.00** Gold Divers **4.00-5.00am** Moonshiners

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC

8.00am Britain's Greatest Machines with Chris Barrie **9.00** Air Crash Investigation **10.00** Seconds from Disaster **11.00** WW2: Hell Under the Sea **12.00noon** World War II: Secrets from Above **1.00** Air Crash Investigation **3.00** Killing Hitler **4.00** WW2's Biggest Wrecks: Drain the Oceans **5.00** Ice Road Rescue **6.00** Nazi Megastructures **7.00** Air Crash Investigation **8.00** Toronto Airport Uncovered **9.00** Nazi Megastructures **10.00** Top Guns: The Next Generation **11.00** Air Crash Investigation **12.00m't** Alaska: The Next Generation **1.00** To Catch a Smuggler **2.30** Money Meltdown **3.20** Food Factory **4.10** When Sharks Attack **4.35** When Sharks Attack and Why **5.00-5.30am** Teleshopping

Movies

FILM4

11.00am River of No Return (1954/PG) Western, starring Marilyn Monroe. ★★★
12.50pm The Sheriff of Fractured Jaw (1958/U) Comedy Western, with Kenneth More and Jayne Mansfield. ★★★★
2.55 The Desert Fox (1951/PG) Second World War drama, starring James Mason. ★★★
4.40 Tobruk (1967/PG) Second World War drama, starring Rock Hudson. ★★★
6.50 Flight of the Phoenix (2004/12) Action adventure, starring Dennis Quaid. ★★★
9.00 The Great Wall (2016/12) Fantasy adventure, starring Matt Damon. ★★★
11.05 The Last of the Mohicans (1992/15) Historical adventure, starring Daniel Day-Lewis and Madeleine Stowe. ★★★★★
1.15-3.55am John Wick: Chapter 3 – Parabellum (2019/15) Action thriller, starring Keanu Reeves and Halle Berry. ★★★

SKY CINEMA PREMIERE

6.30am Borderline (2025/15) Dark comedy horror, starring Samara Weaving. ★★★
8.10 Safe House (2025/15) Thriller, with Holt McCallany and Hannah John-Kamen. ★★★
9.45 Cookster: The Darkest Days (2024/15) See 5.25am. ★★★
11.50 Beast of War (2025/15) Thriller, starring Mark Coles Smith and Joel Nankervis. ★★
1.25pm The Ballad of Wallis Island (2025/12) See 8.00pm. ★★★★
3.10 Nuremberg (2025/15) See 9.45pm. ★★★★
5.40 Sinners (2025/15) Horror thriller, starring Michael B Jordan. ★★★★
8.00 The Ballad of Wallis Island (2025/12) Old tensions resurface when ex-bandmates who were former lovers reunite for a private show at the island home of an eccentric millionaire. Comedy, with Tim Key. ★★★★
9.45 Nuremberg (2025/15) Thriller, starring Russell Crowe and Rami Malek. ★★★★
12.15am The Phoenician Scheme (2025/15) Comedy, starring Mia Threapleton. ★★★★
2.00 The Toxic Avenger (2025/18) Premiere. A horrible accident transforms a downtrodden janitor into a new evolution of hero. Comedy horror, starring Peter Dinklage. ★★★
3.50 All the Devils Are Here (2025/15) Thriller, starring Eddie Marsan and Sam Claflin. ★★★
5.25-7.30am Cookster: The Darkest Days (2024/15) Drama, starring Nick Moran. ★★★

SKY CINEMA DRAMA

5.35pm Molly's Game (2017/15) Fact-based drama, with Jessica Chastain. ★★★★
8.00 Jackie (2016/15) Biopic drama, starring Natalie Portman and Greta Gerwig. ★★★★
9.50 Darkest Hour (2017/PG) Biopic period drama, with Gary Oldman. ★★★★★
12.05am The Brutalist (2025/18) Drama, with Adrien Brody and Felicity Jones. ★★★★
3.30 Sky Cinema Preview-Jan 2026
4.10-6.15am Breakfast at Tiffany's (1961/PG) Comedy, with Audrey Hepburn. ★★★★★

SKY CINEMA FAMILY

4.30pm Cats & Dogs: The Revenge of Kitty Galore (2010/U) Comedy sequel. ★★★
6.00 Grow (2025/PG) Comedy, starring Golda Rosheuvel and Priya-Rose Brookwell. ★★★
8.00 Matilda (1996/PG) Children's fantasy comedy, starring Mara Wilson. ★★★★
9.45 Yogi Bear (2010/U) Comedy, featuring the voice of Dan Aykroyd. ★★★
11.10 Grow (2025/PG) See 6.00pm. ★★★
1.05am Robin and the Hoods (2024/PG) Comedy, starring Naomie Harris. ★★★
2.50 Spy Kids (2001/U) Family adventure, with Antonio Banderas and Carla Gugino. ★★★★
4.25-6.00am Twist (2021/12) Drama, starring Michael Caine and Lena Headey. ★★★

TALKING PICTURES TV

4.50pm The Hasty Heart (1949/U) Drama, with Richard Todd and Ronald Reagan. ★★★★
6.55 The Brothers David considers leaving.
8.00 Mark Saber The detective searches for an elusive black market financier.
8.30 A Hole Lot of Trouble (1971/PG) Short comedy, starring Arthur Lowe. ★★★
9.05 The Wheeltappers and Shunters Social Club Roger Whittaker and Saffron perform.
9.55 Framed Thriller, starring Timothy Dalton.
12.10am Hot Money Feature-length drama.
2.15 Crown Court Three episodes.
3.45-4.55am Sky Liner (1949/12) Spy thriller, with Richard Travis and Pamela Blake. ★★★

GREAT! MYSTERY

7.00pm Castle Beckett steps on a landmine.
8.00 Unforgettable Explosives go missing.
9.00 An Emma Fielding Mystery: More Bitter Than Death (2019/PG) Courtney Thorne-Smith and James Tupper star. ★★★
10.55 Lost Letter Mysteries: Second Chances (2014/PG) Drama, starring Eric Mabius and Kristin Booth. ★★
12.50am Cheer Squad Secrets (2021/15) Drama starring Margaret Anne Florence. ★★
2.35 Witness Unprotected (2018) Thriller, with Daphne Zuniga and Adam Huss. ★★★
4.00-6.00am Perfect Plan (2010/PG) Thriller, with Emily Rose and Jonathan Watton. ★★★

Radio

BBC RADIO 1

97.6-99.8MHz 6.58am Newsbeat **7.00** Sam and Danni **10.30** Newsbeat **10.33** Rickie, Melvin and Charlie **12.45pm** Newsbeat **1.00** Matt and Mollie **3.00** Pop Anthems with Matt and Mollie **3.30** Newsbeat **3.33** Going Home with Katie and Jerry **5.45** Newsbeat **6.00** Radio 1's New Music Show with Jordan Blyth **8.00** Radio 1's Rave-Up with Arielle Free **10.00** BBC Introducing on Radio 1 Dance with Jaguar **11.00** Radio 1's Residency **1.00am** Danny Howard's Club Mix **2.00** Radio 1 Anthems **4.00** Workout Anthems **5.00-6.58am** Emma Millen

BBC RADIO 2

88-91MHz 6.30am Scott Mills Breakfast Show **9.30** Vernon Kay **12.00noon** Tina Daheley **2.00** Trevor Nelson **4.00** Sara Cox **6.30** Sara Cox's Half Wower **7.00** Jo Whiley's Shiny Happy Playlist **7.30** Jo Whiley **9.00** The Country Show with Bob Harris **10.00** The Good Groove with DJ Spoony **12.00m't** OJ Borg **3.00** Alternative Sounds of the 90s with Dermot O'Leary **4.00-6.30am** Owain Wyn Evans

BBC RADIO 3

90.2-92.4MHz 6.30am Breakfast **9.30** Essential Classics **1.00pm** Classical Live **4.00** Composer of the Week: Dvorak **5.00** In Tune **7.00** Classical Mixtape **7.30** Radio 3 in Concert **9.45** The Essay: Stories from the Museum of Music History **10.00** Night Tracks **11.30** 'Round Midnight **12.30-6.30am** Through the Night

CHOICE
Radio 3 In Concert
Radio 3, 7.30pm
Penny Gore presents a concert recorded at the Barbican in London back in November. The BBC Symphony Orchestra, conducted by Sakari Oramo, perform Sibelius's *Lemminkäinen Suite*, Coleridge-Taylor's *Symphonic Variations on an African Air*, and Adès's *Violin Concerto*, with Christian Tetzlaff.

BBC RADIO 4

FM 92.4-94.6MHz 6.00am Today **9.00** In Our Time **9.45** Strong Message Here **10.00** Woman's Hour **11.00** This Cultural Life **11.45** The Trust Shift **12.00noon** News **12.04** The Bottom Line **12.30** Sliced Bread **12.57** Weather **1.00** The World at One **1.45** US Foreign Policy in Five Doctrines **2.00** The Archers **2.15** Drama: Tinsel Girl and the Problem Parent **3.00** Ramblings **3.27** Radio 4 Appeal **3.30** Word of Mouth **4.00** Rethink **4.30** BBC Inside Science **5.00** PM **5.57** Weather **6.00** News **6.30** What's the Story, Ashley Storrie? **7.00** The Archers **7.15** Front Row **8.00** When It Hits the Fan **8.15** The Media Show **9.00** Loose Ends **9.45** Strong Message Here **10.00** The World Tonight **10.45** Book at Bedtime: The Memory Police **11.00** Radical with Amol Rajan **11.30** Today in Parliament **12.00m't** News **12.30** The Trust Shift **12.48** Shipping Forecast **1.00** As BBC World Service **5.00** News **5.04** Yesterday in Parliament **5.32** Weather **5.34** Shipping Forecast **5.43** Prayer for the Day **5.45-6.00am** Farming Today

BBC RADIO 5 LIVE

693/909kHz 6.00am 5 Live Breakfast **9.00** Nicky Campbell **11.00** Adrian Chiles **2.00pm** Matt Chorley **4.00** 5 Live Drive **7.00** 5 Live Sport **7.30** 5 Live Boxing **8.30** 5 Live Sport: The Euro Leagues Podcast **10.00** Tony Livesey **1.00am** Laura McGhie **5.00-6.00am** Wake Up to Money

BBC RADIO WALES

FM: 94.6MHz 6.00am News Update **6.05** Wake Up with Radio Wales **6.31** Country Focus **7.00** Radio Wales Breakfast **9.00** Bronwen Lewis **11.59** The Phone In **2.00pm** Behnaz Akhgar **5.00** Radio Wales Drive **6.30** Kiri's Comedy Club **7.00** Aleighcia Scott **10.00** Eleri Sion **12.00m't** Relax with Radio Wales **1.00-6.00am** As Radio 5 Live

CLASSIC FM

100-102MHz 6.30am Classic FM Breakfast with Dan Walker **9.00** The Classic FM Hall of Fame Hour **10.00** Alexander Armstrong **1.00pm** Anne-Marie Minhall **4.00** Margherita Taylor **7.00** Relaxing Evenings **10.00** Calm Classics. Ritula Shah presents. **1.00am** Bill Overton **4.00-6.30am** Early Breakfast

ABSOLUTE RADIO

DAB 6.00am Dave Berry **10.00** Leona Graham **1.00pm** Ben Burrell **4.00** Bush and Richie **7.00** Danielle Perry **10.00** Jay Lawrence **1.00-6.00am** Dan Noble

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Letters

Edited by GREG MORGAN

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Mega-embassy spy centre puts our security at risk

THE latest insane decision by Keir Starmer in giving the go-ahead to a Chinese mega-embassy in London makes me ask, what goes on in Starmer's head? Is he naive or just plain stupid?

He kowtows to Beijing at every opportunity, as he proved earlier with his feeble surrender of the sovereignty of the Chagos Islands. Now he endangers the UK even more by approving this embassy in the heart of our capital.

The plain truth is, Starmer has shown time and again he is severely lacking in backbone to be Prime Minister of our great country, and rather than acting as our leader, he is proving to be a dangerous man when handed power.

Our security should be the first consideration for him, but Starmer will no doubt prove on his upcoming trip to China that he regards appeasing and pleasing Xi Jinping as far more important than the people of Great Britain.

Jean Norfolk,
Knottingley, WYorks

Starmer waves through a Trojan horse into London

KEIR Starmer, get your last white flag out. Am I hallucinating or what? Has he really ordered from Amazon, the most technically advanced, AI-enabled, Trojan Horse there ever was to keep in an underground Chinese cable stable next door to MI5?

John Evans,
Clacton-on-Sea, Essex

More treachery after PM's great Chinese takeaway

YET one more act of ignominy in public office for Keir Starmer to add to his ever increasing list.

By giving his consent to the construction of the Chinese mega-embassy, our country is once again shamed by a weak and duplicitous Prime Minister.

We all thought that when he ceded the ownership of the Chagos Islands away to a foreign power that this was a treasonous act in itself. Notwithstanding, by this one treacherous act alone he has placed our nation's safety in the greatest peril by inviting the Chinese nation, which many consider to be an enemy of Great Britain, to establish itself in an even greater presence in the heart of England's capital city.

Anthony Richardson,
Stirling

Why does China need such a huge base in England?

THE one thing that hasn't been explained to the British people regarding the Chinese mega-embassy in London is, why does China actually need such a place when even our own allies have nothing like the size of their embassies in this country?

Alan Ogden,
Gomersal, WYorks

Welcome mat is rolled out to all Great Britain's foes

WITH the Government approving the development of the new Chinese mega-embassy in London, has it not occurred to anyone in this Quisling government we may be simply be inviting more enemies into our country?

We know they cannot be trusted. Hong Kong is an example of that.

Besides 745,000 criminal illegal migrants living in the UK posing as asylum seekers; the Chinese, like the Russians, are the second biggest threat to our security and sovereignty.

Does the Government not see we are being invaded and this new embassy underscores that fact?

Brett Trafford,
Bramley, Hants

LETTER OF THE DAY

MASTER: Keir Starmer and President Xi Jinping of China

Keir has sold Britain out to our enemies

LABOUR Prime Minister Keir Starmer's treachery and stupidity is breathtaking ("PM 'out of his depth in new world order'", January 21).

He nods through China's massive new spy centre, a giant outpost of that nation in the heart of our capital, and hands the Chagos Islands to China's friend Mauritius, against the wishes of the Chagossians who apparently have no human rights.

I expect Starmer to return from his planned trip to China bragging that he has secured a wonderful trade deal.

China will supply more useless wind turbines and solar panels. In return, Starmer will hand over sovereignty of half our country.

Dr Peter Outen,
Brentwood, Essex

If this is in nation's best interests, it's hidden well

HAS this Government no sense of national pride? Silly question, of course not. Keir Starmer states clearly that he will always act in Britain's best interests. They are well disguised interests.

Bill Young,
Winsford, Cheshire

Dictator Trump tramples over feeble US opposition

WHAT has happened to the opposition party in the United States ("Fears Trump's tariffs threat will rip Nato apart", January 19)? With President Trump trampling over everyone at the moment, you would have thought that there would have been a few more dissenting voices from within the States, but barely a word from anyone, at least not being reported.

Are they all that scared of the dictator in charge these days?

Mike Payne,
Princes Risborough, Bucks

Sour-faced Posh puts a dampener on everything

I CAN totally understand Brooklyn Beckham's feelings ("Brooklyn snapped and told his wife 'This ends now' before outburst over parents", January 21).

Never seeing your mother's face smile in the news, on television or in any public arena.

She looks like she is permanently sucking a lemon or sneering.

It would not hurt her to smile once in a while, it wouldn't crack her face. Or is that asking the impossible of her?

Donald Wiseman,
Norwich

'Nobody' Brooklyn is only famous because of parents

WHAT is it with these wannabe "celebrities" that they insist on washing their dirty laundry in public? Cue Brooklyn Beckham being the latest in a long line of losers who can't wait to dish the dirt on his family.

What else do we expect though from someone who has been absolutely spoiled rotten since the day he took his first breath? And what an irony that he accused his parents of putting "Brand Beckham" before him and his billionaire heiress wife Nicola.

Had it not been for Brand Beckham then he would not be where he is today.

The similarities between him and Prince Harry are, spookily, almost identical and it makes you wonder if their other halves have influenced such childish and selfish behaviour.

Dave Atkinson,
Egerton, Lancs

A little talent and great PR gets you a long way

I ALWAYS wondered how someone who used to kick a ball about for a living, and a very thin woman who was part of a female singing group (but couldn't actually sing), became so rich.

I now realise what social media and a PR team can achieve in today's shallow world. And as for a knighthood!

Brian Earle,
Poole, Dorset

FINALLY, A DOSE OF COMMON SENSE IN JENNIFER MELLE CASE

IT IS great to know that common sense has been shown by Epsom and St Helier University Hospitals NHS Trust in reinstating Jennifer Melle, a nurse suspended for "misgendering" a sex offender ("'I am deeply relieved'", January 21).

I am sure that the Daily Express showing a lot of interest in this helped. It is a pity the same interest was not shown by the BBC. There was no mention on the News At Six on Tuesday. They showed the Beckham family feud and a cow that can scratch its back with a broom handle.

Graham Douglas,
Chatham, Kent

TODAY: Thursday January 22, 2026

ON THIS DAY

DAILY EXPRESS
THUGS SHOT IN TOMBS
Paratroopers seize arms dump

74 years ago (1952)
We told how paratroops, tanks and armoured cars ringed a cemetery in the Egyptian city of Ismailia after a running gunfight among the tombs. Brigadier Kenneth Darling's airborne men killed four thugs and uncovered piles of ammunition, bombs and dynamite in the maze of graves, mausoleums and underground passages.

53 years ago (1973)
The US Supreme Court delivered its landmark verdict in the Roe vs Wade case which effectively protected the right for women to have an abortion in all states.

The decision triggered an ongoing argument over abortion rights which continues to polarise the entire country as sections of the Christian right opposed it on religious and moral grounds.

36 years ago (1990)
Russian president Mikhail Gorbachev sent troops into the republic of Azerbaijan to suppress riots involving pro-independence activists The crackdown was meant as a warning to the growing separatist movements in other Soviet republics.

But it failed and Azerbaijan was granted independence in 1991.

BIRTHDAYS

US actress **Diane Lane** is 61. She turned down the main role in Pretty Woman. The Crown actor **James Murray** is 51. He campaigns for UK rivers. Former Guns N' Roses drummer **Steven Adler** is 61. He and guitarist Slash met as kids. The Exorcist star **Linda Blair** is 67. She is an animal rights campaigner.

TODAY'S GIGGLE

Why did the Cyclops close his school? He only had one pupil.

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DECEMBER 2026

Fri 18 **Embark the adults-only *Borealis* and depart Southampton**

Wed 23 **Santa Cruz, Tenerife**

Fri 25 ★Spend Christmas Day relaxing at sea★
Sit back and relax, enjoy a festive cocktail; watch Fred Olsen's Show Company's festive performances; and indulge in a fabulous Christmas Lunch with all the trimmings!

Wed 30 - Thu 31 **St. John's, Antigua** (arrive early pm - overnight)
★New Year's Eve★
Nestled on the picturesque shores of Antigua, St. John's welcomes visitors with its vibrant Caribbean charm and rich maritime history

JANUARY 2027

Fri 1 **Philipsburg, St. Maarten**
★New Year's Day★

Sat 2 **Basseterre, St. Kitts**

Sun 3 **Castries, St. Lucia**

Mon 4 **Port Elizabeth, Bequia, Grenadines**

Tue 5 **St. George's, Grenada**
St. George's is a charming city with red-tiled homes scattered across the volcanic hills of an ancient crater on the southwest coast of Grenada. Nearby, Grand Etang National Park features lush rainforests and a large lake teeming with indigenous flora, exotic birds, and lizards

Wed 6 **Bridgetown, Barbados**

Wed 13 - Thu 14 **Funchal, Madeira** (arrive early pm - overnight)

Mon 18 **Arrive in Southampton**

Dates not mentioned are spent relaxing at sea

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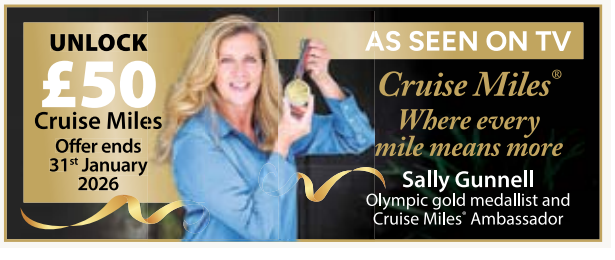

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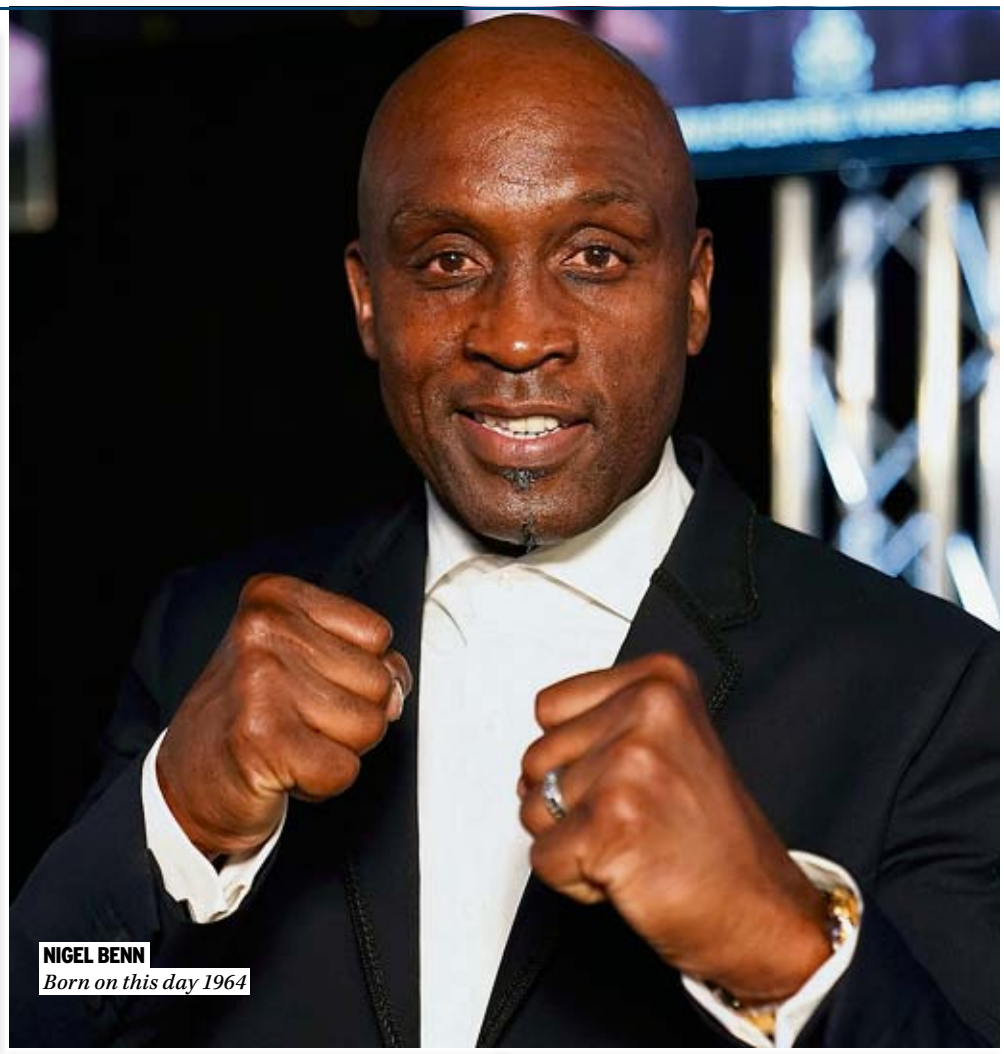

NIGEL BENN
Born on this day 1964

ARIES MARCH 21-APRIL 20

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For more call **0905 789 4171**
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TAURUS APRIL 21-MAY 21

New information that has something to do with your long-term plans will push you towards making choices that feel practical and freeing. Your inner voice urges you to trust what can't yet be seen. Joint efforts will thrive. Listen to what others are saying. Something important is becoming clearer, revealing pathways you may not have considered before.

For more call **0905 789 4172**
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GEMINI MAY 22-JUNE 21

A big change highlights shared experiences and agreements. Conversations will be important as they reveal truths that help you move forward. Inspiration pushes you to learn more, travel more and broaden your perspective. Follow your curiosity wherever it might lead and let honesty guide your next moves. Embrace the unexpected

For more call **0905 789 4173**
(80p/min + network access charge)

CANCER JUNE 22-JULY 23

Partnership and joint dealings take centre stage. You're more aware of what you need and what you can offer others. This increased understanding of yourself and your relationships brings a touch of gentleness to serious matters. Don't be surprised if you feel drawn to revisit personal boundaries or renew a commitment. Trust your intuitive nudges.

For more call **0905 789 4174**
(80p/min + network access charge)

LEO JULY 24-AUG 23

New routines inspire you to take a greater interest in what's going on around you. An observation you make helps you discover patterns that have been lingering beneath the surface. Family discussions lead to healing solutions and resolutions. You're prepared to organise your life in a way that supports your wellbeing. Embrace the newfound clarity.

For more call **0905 789 4175**
(80p/min + network access charge)

VIRGO AUG 24-SEPT 23

Being creative can be therapeutic. A piece of art, poetry or music will remind you of dreams and aspirations that have not yet been fulfilled. A moment of truth arrives. Someone's comments will open a door, guiding you into a more authentic way of sharing your gifts. Embrace this inspiration, for it may lead to connections that resonate deeply within you.

For more call **0905 789 4176**
(80p/min + network access charge)

LIBRA SEPT 24-OCT 23

Home, memories and emotional security come into focus. A thoughtful change in perspective helps you understand old patterns with new compassion. Conversations around family or personal foundations feel constructive and supportive. This is your chance to reset the atmosphere around you for harmony, stability and deeper belonging.

For more call **0905 789 4177**
(80p/min + network access charge)

SCORPIO OCT 24-NOV 22

A balance between your inner and outer worlds brings greater understanding in both your communications and decision-making. If it helps to clear the air, you are willing to speak honestly. A creative idea will be pursued with renewed intensity. Trust intuitive thoughts as they will lead to progress, revealing paths you may not have considered.

For more call **0905 789 4178**
(80p/min + network access charge)

SAGITTARIUS NOV 23-DEC 21

It will be resources, values and confidence in your skills that sharpen your sense of purpose. Subtle inspirations are guiding you towards making good choices and encouraging you to simplify or reorganise your life. A creative idea will bring new ways to share your talents. A sudden realisation will support future expansion in surprising ways.

For more call **0905 789 4179**
(80p/min + network access charge)

CAPRICORN DEC 22-JAN 20

A powerful renewal begins from within. Your inner voice is growing stronger and this is guiding you toward making good decisions. Today brings awareness of both your strengths and vulnerabilities, helping you to do what is right for you. This quiet transformation is shaping your next chapter, inviting you to embrace the possibilities that lie ahead.

For more call **0905 789 4180**
(80p/min + network access charge)

AQUARIUS JAN 21-FEB 19

Hidden truths rise to the surface. This clears mental space and sharpens your intuition. You are seeing a situation more clearly than before, allowing you to release, forgive or make new choices. Take some time to rest, reflect and trust your inner-guidance. New doors are about to open. Embrace the sense of liberation that follows this journey.

For more call **0905 789 4181**
(80p/min + network access charge)

PISCES FEB 20-MARCH 20

Your hopes, friendships, and community ties feel especially meaningful. Emotional connections deepen due to your compassion, kindness and consideration. This brings a stronger sense of belonging. Shared commitments strengthen the future you are building together, illuminating the path ahead with unity and shared aspirations.

For more call **0905 789 4182**
(80p/min + network access charge)

Calls cost 80p per minute plus your telephone company's network access charge – maximum of 5 minutes duration. You must be over 18 and have the bill payer's permission. Service provider Spoke. Helpline 0333 202 3390

NUTWOOD TALES

To order a copy of the Rupert Annual 2024 (£10.99) visit www.expressbookshop.com or call Express Bookshop on 020 3176 3832. Free UK P&P on online orders over £25.

RUPERT AND THE PENGUINS No.19

"There's Rosalie with Podgy Pig!
My word, their picnic hamper's big!"

"Honey!" gasps Rupert. "That's it. Yes!
A QUEEN bee's royal too, I guess!"

As Rupert wanders along, deep in thought, he comes across Podgy and Rosalie. The cousins have brought a hamper of food and are busy unpacking it. "Hullo, Rupert!" calls Podgy. "Whatever are you dreaming about?" "Perhaps you can help me," replies the little bear. "I'm looking for something." He catches sight of a pot of honey. "Bees like honey," he muses. "And the King Penguin did say royal names, not just kings. So, I wonder why not a queen bee?" Podgy stares. "Whatever do you mean?" "I'll tell you later." Rupert replies.

CALVIN AND HOBBES BILL WATTERSON

HERE, YOU'LL PROBABLY WANT THIS PILLOW.
WHAT FOR?
IT'S LIKE AN AIR BAG. HOLD IT IN FRONT OF YOUR HEAD LIKE THIS AS WE GO DOWN.
DON'T YOU FEEL SAFER NOW?
I CERTAINLY DO.

FAITH, HOPE AND SUE LISA WILD

POWERED BY CITY A.M.

City & Business

AT A GLANCE

STOCK MARKET			
FTSE 100	10138.1	▲	+11.3
FTSE 250	23071.3	▲	+113.4
FTSE ALL SHARE	5465.4	▲	+8.7
Shares Traded	8907.1 million		

POPULAR SHARES ON THE RISE		
Abrdn	218¼	+3¼
BP	445¼	+7½
Centrica	183½	+2¾
HSBC Holdings	1231	+2
Int Consolidated Airlines	420	+11¾
Saga	410	+1½
Sainsbury (J)	315	+½
Shell	2733½	+11½
Unilever	4785	+10

POPULAR SHARES UNCHANGED	
National Grid	1190½
Vodafone Group	101

POPULAR SHARES ON THE SLIDE		
AstraZeneca	13338	-182
Aviva	663½	-7½
BAE Systems	2062	-4
Barclays	475½	-4
BT Group	184	-1¼
GSK	1787½	-8
Lloyds Banking Group	101½	-1
Marks & Spencer Group	359½	-3¾
NatWest Group	649½	-2¼
Rolls-Royce Holdings	1255	-26
Tesco	422¼	-4½
Whitbread	2714	-38

WORLD MARKETS			
WALL STREET	49,077.2	▲	+588.6
TOKYO	52774.6	▼	-216.5
HONG KONG	26585.1	▲	+97.6
GERMANY	24561.0	▼	-142.1
FRANCE	8069.2	▲	+6.6

STERLING VALUE			
Dollar	1.343	▼	-0.001
Yen	212.326	▼	-0.243
Euro	1.147	▲	+0.001

DOLLAR VALUE			
Dollar/Yen	158.118	▼	-0.0337
Dollar/Euro	0.854	▲	+0.0012

COMMODITIES		
GOLD($)	▲	4827.94
KRUGERRAND(£)	▲	3595.91
SILVER(pence)	▼	6945.78
BRENT CRUDE($)	▲	65.04

OTHER INDICATORS	
Base rate	3.75%
Halifax mortgage rate	5.95%
Retail Price Index	+4.2% (CPI +3.4%)
House price Index	+2.5%
Unemployment	1,840,000

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TOURIST'S POUND

Australia	1.94 dollar
Canada	1.81 dollar
China	8.78 renminbi
Czech Rep.	26.19 koruna
Denmark	8.13 krone
Eurozone	1.13 euro
Hong Kong	9.85 dollar
Hungary	413.99 forint
Israel	3.99 shekel
Japan	203.92 yen
Jordan	0.89 dinar
Mexico	22.33 peso
New Zealand	2.23 dollar
Norway	12.95 krone
Poland	4.61 zloty
Saudi Arabia	4.80 riyal
South Africa	21.09 rand
Sweden	11.66 krona
Switzerland	1.03 franc
Thailand	40.20 baht
Turkey	54.13 lira
United States	1.32 dollar

House price growth at 2.5% despite Budget uncertainty

By **Henry Saker-Clark**

HOUSE prices grew 2.5% in November, despite "considerable political and economic uncertainty".

The Office for National Statistics – which reported the uptick from October's 1.9% – revealed the average UK house price hit £271,000 for the month.

Property values increased to reach £293,000 (a 2.2% rise) in England, £209,000 (0.7%) in Wales and £193,000 (4.5%) in Scotland.

The average house price in Northern Ireland in the third quarter of 2025 was £193,000 – a 7.1% year-on-year rise.

In England, the North East saw the highest level of house price inflation at 6.8%, while London once again had the lowest, with a 1.2% decline. Nevertheless, this represented a less steep fall after London experienced a 2.6% drop in October.

Average UK monthly private rents rose 4% to £1,368 in the year to December, slowing slightly from 4.4% in the previous month, according to the ONS.

Nathan Emerson, CEO of industry body Propertymark, said: "Despite considerable political and economic uncertainty, it is positive to see the housing market deliver sustained momentum over the past 12 months. As we further embark into 2026, there are encouraging signs that the housing market will continue to deliver growth.

Nicky Stevenson welcomed rise

"However, with inflation seeing a slight increase, there could be potential hesitation from the Bank of England for further base rate dips in the short term."

The figures came after the ONS had earlier revealed that wider inflation accelerated in November. Consumer Price Index inflation lifted to 3.4% in December, from 3.2% in November, driven by tobacco duty and higher air fares.

Nicky Stevenson, MD at agents Fine & Country, said: "After the quieter months earlier in 2025, this healthy rise in prices suggests that buyer confidence held up well as we approached the tail end of the year.

"Despite concerns in the run-up to the Budget, the market stayed robust.

"We often see an uptick of activity in November, as buyers and sellers aim to complete moves before Christmas. That seasonal momentum, paired with good availability of stock, appears to have helped underpin this modest rise."

SHOE STORE IS RETAILER'S NEXT BUY

Billie Piper fronted recent campaign at Russell & Bromley

HIGH street retailer Next is buying troubled shoe seller Russell & Bromley in the latest in a string of acquisitions.

The sale will see booming Next acquire the Russell & Bromley brand, and three of its London stores – in Chelsea, Mayfair and the Bluewater Shopping Centre – in exchange for £2.5m.

Russell & Bromley, which began in 1880 in Eastbourne, had appointed advisory firm Interpath to lead a restructuring, before deciding to go for a sale. The shoe chain's remaining 33 stores will continue to trade while administrators assess them.

Next, which reported soaring Christmas international sales, has previously bought up brands Cath Kidston and Joules.

Pub giant has taken a big hit

Spoons battles soaring costs, but sales still grow

WETHERSPOON shares slumped after the pub chain revealed a big financial hit from November's tax-raising Budget.

It said rises across energy, wages, repairs and business rates had put up costs by £45m in the six months to mid-January. That would imply a cost rise of as much as £94m over a year. The firm, which has nearly 800 sites, warned that profit was likely to be lower than in the previous financial year.

"We are pleased with sales growth [but] costs have been higher than anticipated," said chief executive Tim Martin.

Wetherspoon shares sunk 6.7% to 688.50p in early trading following the profit warning. Anna Barnfather, an analyst at Panmure Liberum, said: "We continue to see downside risk given the chain's low-margin model and ongoing cost inflation."

While festive sales rose, Wetherspoon joins a chorus of pubs blaming business rates for lower profits and soaring bills.

++ THE FTSE 100 THE FTSE 100 THE FTSE 100 ++

COMPANY	CLOSE	+/-	52 WEEK HIGH	52 WEEK LOW
3i Group	3272	+50	4459	2999
A.B. Foods	1860	-3½	2337	1838
Admiral Group	†			
Airtel Africa	356½	+½	372¾	126
Alliance Trust	1278	+4	1324	1050
Anglo American	3401	+158	3430	2003¾
Antofagasta	3595	+48	3665	1383
Ashtead Group	5112#	+112	5594	3659
AstraZeneca	13338	-182	14346	9667
Auto Trader	561#	+2½	908½	554
Aviva	663½	-7½	692½	493
Babcock International	1485	+3	1513	500
BAE Systems	2062	-4	2093	1180½
Barclays	475½	-4	489	241¾
Barratt Development	381¾	+4¼	482¼	350
Beazley Group	1123	-3	1170	769
Berkeley Grp Hldgs	4004	+60	4324	3524
BP	445¼	+7½	476¼	331¾
British Amer.Tob	4248#	-9	4421	2953
British Land	404½	-1	420½	321¼
BT Group	184#	-1¼	223¾	139½
Bunzl	2086	+97	3452	1981
Burberry Group	1280	+61	1371½	627¾
Centrica	183½	+2¾	183½	132¼
Coca-Cola HBC	3882	-38	4034	2762
Compass Group	2221#	-32	2843	2213
Convatec Group	229½	-1¾	295½	221¼
CRH	8970	-18	9704	6142
Croda International	2772	+94	3383	2465
DCC	4474	+98	5600	4350
Diageo	1672	+41½	2503½	1577
Diploma	5440#	-60	5685	3624
EasyJet	483	+6	587¾	427½
Entain	683¼	+10¼	1022	501¼
Experian Group	3070#	-157	4088	2989
F&C Inv Tst	1249#	+6	1272	962
Flutter Entert.	13540	-140	23630	13315
Fresnillo	4050	+74	4086	657

COMPANY	CLOSE	+/-	52 WEEK HIGH	52 WEEK LOW
Games Workshop	18040#	-60	19840	12410
GlaxoSmithKline	1787½	-8	1901½	1264
Glencore	500	+18	502	230
Haleon	377¼	+4¼	415¼	326½
Halma	3710#	+120	3710	2360
Hikma	1520	-7	2340	1507
Hiscox	1486	-4	1516	1035
HSBC Holdings	1231	+2	1238¾	713¼
IMI	2672	+56	2688	1606
Imperial Brands	2993	-40	3312	2602
Informa	928	+15¾	993½	640¼
InterContinental Htl	10163½	-3381½	10308¾	5527¾
Intermediate Cap.Grp	1992	-28	2450	1569
Intertek Group	4538	+16	5385	4064
Intl Consolidated Airlines	420	+11¾	437	224½
JD Sports	82	+3¾	104½	63¼
Kingfisher	321	+4	329¾	238½
Land Securities	636	+1	654	499½
Legal & General	261	-1½	267¾	215¼
Lloyds Banking Grp	101½	-1	102½	61
London & Stamford Prop	199	-1¾	204½	170½
London Stock Ex	8782	-198	12095	8138

COMPANY	CLOSE	+/-	52 WEEK HIGH	52 WEEK LOW
M&G	304¼	+2¾	304¼	172¾
Marks & Spencer	359½	-3¾	411¼	318½
Melrose	632	+6¼	680	386
Mondi	858	+12½	1326	819
National Grid	1190½		1201½	919¾
NatWest Group	649½	-2¼	665½	411¼
Next	13625	-70	14580	9336
Pearson	948	+10	1379	929¾
Pershing Square Hold	4544	+102	5090	3244
Persimmon	1401½	-12½	1418½	1037½
Phoenix Group	731½	-1½	748½	499¼
Prudential	1167	-½	1195½	652
Reckitt Benckiser	6040	-66	6228	4633
RELX	2970	-39	4135	2928
Rentokil Initial	469½	+7¾	473½	309½
Rightmove	494½	-1½	823¾	490½
Rio Tinto	6641	+327	6676	4117
Rolls-Royce Group	1255	-26	1305	582¾
Sage Group	1025#	-16½	1348	1024¼
Sainsbury (J)	315	+½	355¾	228¾
Schroders	453	+2¾	467	289¼
Scottish Mortgage	1189½	-5½	1215½	815¼
SEGRO	722	-9½	751½	599
Severn Trent	2856	+9	2907	2370
Shell	2733½	+11½	2931½	2291½
Smith & Nephew	1217	+16½	1435	937¾
Smiths Group	2614	+44	2633	1687
Smurfit Kappa	3092	+16	4495	2558
Spirax-Sarco	7150	+130	8190	5445
SSE	2334#	+12	2363	1463½
St James's Place	1448½	+3½	1515½	791
Standard Chartered	1833½	-4½	1878½	878¾
Tesco	422¼	-4½	475½	314½
Unilever	4785	+10	6177½	4631
United Utilities	1211#	-½	1242	944½
Vodafone Group	101#		103¾	64
Weir Group	3132	+52	3132	1984
Whitbread	2714	-38	3274	2335

Currys Xmas trade a winter warmer

TECH giant Currys has defied wider high street gloom with an upbeat Christmas trading update.

The firm recorded a 3% uptick in UK and Ireland revenue as it clawed a bigger market share from strong sales in mobile, as well as growth in computing and appliances.

Group CEO Alex Baldock declared its online-and-physical model "is winning". He added: "We gained market share in the UK and Ireland and Nordics, in stores and online, and our fastest growth was where people use both channels together.

"This is a competitive advantage we'll keep building."

Baldock said Currys was set to notch £180-£190m in pre-tax profit, 11-17% ahead of expectations.

A £50m share buyback scheme will bring total cash dished out to shareholders near £75m for the year.

+ BG + Barclays + BT + Centrica + Dixons Carphone + First Group + HSBC + Kingfisher + Marks & Spencer + Next + Prudential + Rolls-Royce + Sainsburys + Tesco + Unilever + Vodafone + Whitbread + WPP

SHARES AT A GLANCE

COMPANY	CLOSE	+/-	52 WEEK HIGH	LOW
Aerospace & Defence				
Avon Rubber	1990	+8	2180	1338
Babcock International	1485	+3	1513	500
BAE Systems	2062	-4	2093	1180½
Chemring Group	523	-9	593	297½
QinetiQ Group	532½#	+3½	572	361
Rolls-Royce Group	1255	-26	1305	582¾
Senior	228	+6½	229½	115¾
Alternative Energy				
Porvair	874	-10	900	626
Banks				
Barclays	475½	-4	489	241¾
Bco Santander	894	-12	910	398½
Close Brothers	517	-7½	550½	266½
HSBC Holdings	1231	+2	1238¾	713¼
Investec	593	+3½	597	414
Lloyds Banking Grp	101½	-1	102½	61
Metro Bank	128¼	-¼	133½	81
NatWest Group	649½	-2¼	665½	411¼
Paragon Group	884½	-5½	970	686½
Standard Chartered	1833½	-4½	1878½	878¾
Beverages				
Barr (AG)	641	+5	711	574
Coca-Cola HBC	3882	-38	4034	2762
Diageo	1672	+41½	2503½	1577
Chemicals				
Carclo	55	-1	80	21
Croda International	2772	+94	3383	2465
Elementis	167¾	+2½	176½	115
Johnson Matthey	2340#	+36	2362	1156
Synthomer	57	+1½	158¼	46
Treatt	210	-9	444	186½
Victrex	718	+23	1066	589
Construction & Materials				
Balfour Beatty	713	-3	735	390½
Costain Group	161¾	+¾	168	86
CRH	8970	-18	9704	6142
Dialight	302	-6	364	90¼
Galliford Try	535	+12	546	321
Gleeson (MJ)	403	+1	538	320
Keller Group	1694	+6	1740	1240
Kier Group	216	-3	231½	115¼
Marshalls	162¼	+2¾	293	158¼
Morgan Sindall	4835	-35	4985	2945
Severfield-Rowen	29½	+1	52¼	19
Smart (J) & Co	132½#		132½	110
Electricity				
Drax Group	889	+9½	903½	536½
SSE	2334#	+12	2363	1463½
Telecom Plus	1344		2085	1326
Electronic & Electrical Equipment				
Acal	608#	+7	738	486
Halma	3710#	+120	3710	2360
Oxford Instruments	2415	+90	2415	1500
Renishaw	3770	+70	3875	2145
TT Electronics	109	-¾	154	73
XP Power	1052	+32	1314	621
Equity Investment Instruments				
Aberdeen Asian Sml	377	+1	383	256
Aberforth Smll.Co.	1628	+12	1638	1212
Acorn Income				
Albion Tech.& Gen. VCT	66		71	65½
Alliance Trust	1278	+4	1324	1050
Aurora Inv.Tst.	277		279	212½
AVI Global Tst	263	+3	266½	202
Baillie Gifford Japan	921	-4	951	657
Baillie Gifford Shin Nip	137¾	+½	138¾	95½
Bankers Inv.Tst	133½		136	101
Baronsmead VCT.2	48½		52	46½
BH Macro GBP	405½	+2½	409½	371½
Biotech Growth Trust	1260	+15	1285	620
BlackRock Mining	968	+17	989¼	406½
Bluehone AiM VCT2	28¼		31	27¼
British Assets Tst	27¾	+¼	49¼	26¼
Brunner Inv.Tst.	1474	+8	1490	1140
Caledonia Inv.	368	+4½	391½	334½
City Natural Res.Yld	415	+14	415	165¾
City Of London	547	+1	549	411½
Dunedin Ent.IT.				
Dunedin Income	308½	+2½	312	262
Edin Wwide Inv	221½	-1	229½	143
Edin.Inv.Tst.	812	+4	839	680
Edin.US Tracker	382½#	+2	386½	289½
Elderstreet VCT	38¼		41	36½
F&C Cap&Inc.	345	-2	354	287
F&C Inv Tst	1249#	+6	1272	962
F&C Smaller Cos	183#	+½	184¾	136½
F&C US Smaller Companies	1417½	+7½	1515	1115
Fidelity Asian	618	+8	628	454
Fidelity European	425		434	338½
Fidelity Special	427½	+1½	431½	295½
Finsbury Gwth&In	816	-2	962	795
Foresight Tech.VCT	65½		75½	62
Genesis E.M.F.	1152	+18	1158	632
Graphite Ent	1506	+18	1600	1070
Hansa Tst 'A'	268	+2	273	190
Hansa Tst Plc	274	+1	278	192½
Henderson Far Est	254	+3	254½	190½
Henderson High Inc	193½#	+1½	195½	151
Herald Inv.Tst.	2620	+30	2640	1738
HGCapital Tst.	500	+4	538	448
HSBC Infrastructure	117½	+¼	125¼	106
Impax Env.Mkt	422	+1	431	310½
Int.Biotech.Tst.	970#	+6	996	480
International Public	128	+½	130	107¾
Invesco Asia.	440	+1	447	300
Invesco Perp UK	382	+1½	386	313½
JPM American	1136	+18	1186	869
JPM Asian	484#	+9	485½	331½
JPM Claverhouse	878		888	660
JPM Emerg Mkt	144#	+1½	144½	95
JPM Euro Sml Co.	610#	+1	620	444½
JPM Global Emerging	182#	+2½	182½	118½
JPM Indian	969	-3	1106	904
JPM Japanese	752#	+5	759	493
JPM Overseas IT	580	+2	610	480
JPM Smaller Co	333	+1	338	253
JPM US Sml Co.	419	+2	516	338
Jupiter Euro.	926	-1	959	757
JZ Capital Partners	187		220	184
Law Debenture	1114	+8	1124	788
Lowland Invest Co	165#	+1	166	114½
Majedie Inv.	274	+4	280	230
Manchester&Lon.	764	-2	944	512
Martin Currie Prtflo Tst.	351#	+1	386	295
Maven Income And Growth VCT 3	33½		38	32½
Mercantile Inv Tst	264#	+½	266	202½
Merchants Tst	611	+4	617	474
Mid Wynd Int.	782		836	664
Monks Inv.Tst.	1524		1554	1036
Montanaro Euro Tst.	167½	+1	183½	138
Montanaro Uk	103#		106½	87¾
Murray Inc.Tst.	923	+5	938	754
Murray Int.Tst	330½#	+1½	335	239
New India	732	-2	832	686
New Star Inv.Tst.	131	+1½	131	100
North Atl.Smlr.Tst				
Northern 2 VCT	53½#		57	52½
Northern Venture	56½#		58½	55½
Oxford Tech 2 VCT	6½		7	5½
Pacific Assets.	373		378	302
Pacific Horizon	864	+13	866	507
Pantheon Int.	385	+2½	387	266
Pershing Square Hold	4544	+102	5090	3244
Polar Cap.Tech	486	+2	492½	255½
RCM Technology Trust	541		550	307
RIT Capital Partners	2205	+5	2275	1722
Ruffer Investment.	302	-½	305½	271
Schroder Asia	698#	+5	702	461½
Schroder Inc.	350½#	+1½	354	255
Schroder Japan	329#		334	209
Schroder UK	207		211	158½
Schroder UK M&S	738	+3	748	520
Scottish American	518		525	454½
Scottish Mortgage	1189½	-5½	1215½	815¼
Shires Inc.	313#	+1	316½	222
Small Comp Div.Tst	138		155	124
Standard Life Equity	416	+3	418	288½
Standard Life UK Sml	517	+4	531	426
Temple Bar.	378½	+4½	386½	258
Templeton Emrg.	256½#	+4	257	151¾
The European Inv.Tst	110#	+1½	111	84
Throgmorton Tst.	646	-1	653	469
TR Euro.Growth	220½		225	163
TR Prop. IT	326	-4	338½	277½
Witan Pacific	318½	+5½	322	222
Wwide Healthcare	377	+5	397	265½
Financial Services				
3i Group	3272	+50	4459	2999
3i Infrastructure	374		385	301
Abrdn	218¼	+3¼	225¼	123¾
Ashmore Group	225¾	+2½	234½	125
Guinness Peat Group	84	+1¼	96	68¼
IG Group	1347	+6	1352	913
Intermediate Cap.Grp.	1992	-28	2450	1569
International Pers Fin	236		237	121½
IP Group	57¼	+1¼	65	34¾
Jupiter Fund Man.	183	+¾	186½	68
Liontrust Asset Man	255	-1	458	231½
London Stock Ex.	8782	-198	12095	8138
M&G	304¼	+2¾	304¼	172¾
Man Group	260	+1¾	271¾	154¾
Provident Financial	115½	+1¼	128½	49
Rathbone Brothers	2170	+5	2220	1406
S & U	2300	+30	2340	1330
Schroders	453	+2¾	467	289¼
St James's Place	1448½	+3½	1515½	791
Tullett Prebon	255½		311½	228
Walker Crips Group	13¼		15	7½
Fixed Line Telecommunications				
Airtel Africa	356½	+½	372¾	126
BT Group	184#	-1¼	222¾	139½
Food & Drug Retailers				
Greggs	1650	-8	2182	1418
Kingfisher	321	+4	329¾	238½
Next	13625	-70	14580	9336
Pets At Home	193½	-1	273¼	190
RM Group	111	+3	118	82
Topps Tiles	42#	+¾	50	29
WH Smith	683	+5	1307	613½
Health Care Equipment & Services				
Convatec Group	229½	-1¾	295½	221¼
Flying Brands	½		2	½
Smith & Nephew	1217	+16½	1435	937¾
Household Goods & Home Construction				
Barratt Development	381¾	+4¼	482¼	350
Bellway	2692	-16	2982	2166
Berkeley Grp Hldgs	4004	+60	4324	3524
Bovis Homes	645	+3½	701	510¾
Mcbride	141¼	-1¼	159	107
Persimmon	1401½	-12½	1418½	1037½
Reckitt Benckiser	6040	-66	6228	4633
Taylor Wimpey	107¼	+¾	123¼	93
Industrial Engineering				
Bodycote	749	+11	766½	460½
Hill & Smith	2250	+20	2360	1530
IMI	2672	+56	2688	1606
Morgan Crucible	232	+5½	274	177½
Northgate	373½	+2	395	273½
Rotork	348¾	+7½	352	275¾
Spirax-Sarco	7150	+130	8190	5445
Vesuvius	435½	+14	438½	313¾
Weir Group	3132	+52	3132	1984
Xaar	110		145	59
Industrial Metals & Mining				
Castings.	261	-9½	319	234
Evraz				
Ferrexpo	69¼	+6¼	110¾	44¼
Industrial Transportation				
Braemar Shipping Serv	224	-2½	278	201
Clarkson	4100	-40	4505	2995
FirstGroup	180¾	-2¾	233	146½
Fisher (J) & Sons	361	-16	403	285
Leisure Goods				
Games Workshop	18040#	-60	19840	12410
Photo-Me Intl.	134	+¾	230	130½
Life Insurance				
Aviva	663½	-7½	692½	493
Chesnara	298½		304	212¾
Legal & General	261	-1½	267¾	215¼
Phoenix Group	731½	-1½	748½	499¼
Prudential	1167	-½	1195½	652
Media				
4imprint Group	4195	-110	6030	3035
Bloomsbury Publish.	497½	-3½	672	468
Future	507½#	+13¼	1029	489¾
Informa	928	+15¾	993½	640¼
ITV	79¼	-¾	87¾	66¼
Pearson	948	+10	1379	929¾
Reach	59½	+1¼	88¼	53
STV Group	112	+3	202	103
Wilmington Group.	291		387	289
WPP Group	310	+2½	787¾	269
Mining				
Anglo American	3401	+158	3430	2003¾
Anglo Pacific	140½#	+2	141½	50
Antofagasta.	3595	+48	3665	1383
BHP Billiton	2457	+87	2482	1609½
Endeavour Mining	4278	+70	4414	1519
Fresnillo.	4050	+74	4086	657
Gem Diamonds	3¼	+¼	12	2¾
Glencore	500	+18	502	230
Hochschild Mining.	600½	-2½	634	168
Kenmare Res.	258	+4	436	227
Petra Diamonds	16½	+½	30½	10½
Rio Tinto	6641	+327	6676	4117
Mobile Telecommunications				
Vodafone Group	101#		103¾	64
Nonequity Investment Instruments				
Oryx Int.Gwth.	1235	+17½	1392½	1042½
Rights &Iss.Inc	2040	+20	2220	1670
Nonlife Insurance				
Admiral Group.				
Beazley Group	1123	-3	1170	769
Hiscox.	1486	-4	1516	1035
Lancashire	615	-21	694	523
Oil & Gas Producers				
BP	445¼	+7½	476¼	331¾
Cairn Energy	225½	+1½	331½	183
Enquest	12		16½	9¾
Gulf Keystone Pet.	185½	+1½	224½	148¾
Harbour Energy.	222	+6½	290¼	151¼
Shell	2733½	+11½	2931½	2291½
Soco International	21#	+¼	26½	18
Tullow Oil	7	+¼	23	4
Oil Equipment, Services & Distribution				
Hunting.	429½	+1	437½	246½
John Wood Group	26¼		72½	17¼
Personal Goods				
Burberry Group	1280	+61	1371½	627¾
PZ Cussons	70½	+½	88¼	66
Unilever.	4785	+10	6177½	4631
Pharmaceuticals & Biotechnology				
AstraZeneca	13338	-182	14346	9667
Genus.	2800	+35	2835	1548
GlaxoSmithKline	1787½	-8	1901½	1264
Haleon	377¼	+4¼	415¼	326½
Hikma.	1520	-7	2340	1507
Ovoca Gold	1¼			
Oxford Biomedica	875	-12	913	232½
Real Estate Investment & Services				
Boot (Henry)	220	-5	237	196
Cardiff Property	2700#		2700	2540
CLS Holdings	58¾	-¼	75	53½
Foxtons	52¼	-¼	67¾	52
Harworth Group	165		189½	159½
Mountview Est.	8800	+50	10200	8700
Panther Secs.	290		320	270
Rightmove	494½	-1½	823¾	490½
Savills	1074	+10	1110	871
Wynnstay Props.	860		875	695
Real Estate Investment Trusts				
Big Yellow Group	1040#		1180	848
British Land	404½	-1	420½	321¼
Capital & Counties	141	+½	161¼	113½
Derwent London	1887	+16	2096	1608
Grainger	189½#	-1	228	177½
Great Portland Est.	340½	+3½	363	262
Hammerson	332½	+1	348¼	220½
Helical Bar	183¼	+5¼	240	171¾
Land Securities	636	+1	654	499½
London & Stamford Prop	199	-1¾	204½	170½
Primary Health.	103½		104½	87½
SEGRO	722	-9½	751½	599
Town Centre	123	-½	149	117
Unite Group	571	-1½	879½	510
Value & Income	200½#	+1¾	215	173
Workspace Group	418½#	+6	473½	362
Software & Computer Services				
Computacenter	3060	+22	3212	2086
Intec Telecom.				
Microgen	283½	-4	344	255
Moneysupermarket	184¾	+1¼	221½	180½
Pendragon.	343	-4½	558	296
RELX	2970	-39	4135	2928
Sage Group	1025#	-16½	1348	1024¼
Triad Group	250	+5	400	240
Support Services				
Ashtead Group	5112#	+112	5594	3659
Capita Group	382½	-6	407½	175
DCC	4474	+98	5600	4350
Diploma	5440#	-60	5685	3624
Essentra.	104	-¾	126¼	89¾
Experian Group	3070#	-157	4088	2989
Ferguson.	18440#	+240	19470	11670
Hays	46	+1	88¼	44¼
Intertek Group	4538	+16	5385	4064
Johnson Service	138¾	-¼	159½	124
London Security	2850		3800	2750
Macfarlane Group	71		120½	62¾
Mears Group	348½	+8½	417½	311½
Michael Page	194½	+1½	341¼	190½
Mitie Group	166¼#	+¾	171½	112
Norish.	18¾		18¾	14
Paypoint	498	+1½	853	438½
Rentokil Initial	469½	+7¾	473½	309½
Robert Walters.	128½	+1	306	116
RS Group.	637	+4½	681½	487¼
Serco Group	303½	+4¾	304	150
SIG	9¾	+¼	18	8½
Smiths News.	66#		77½	47½
Speedy Hire.	25¾#	+½	32¼	18
SThree	182¼	+3½	289½	137½
Travis Perkins	647	-3½	714	494
Trifast	76	+1	87½	59
Vitec Group	11¾	-¼	130	11
Technology Hardware & Equipment				
BATM Advanced	15¾	-¼	19¾	13
Tobacco				
British Amer.Tob	4248#	-9	4421	2953
Imperial Brands	2993	-40	3312	2602
Travel & Leisure				
888 Holdings	26¼	+2¼	74	21
Carnival	2109	-5	2406	1134
Celtic.	195	-5	200	142½
Compass Group	2221#	-32	2843	2213
Domino's Pizza.	183	+2½	302¾	167¼
EasyJet.	483	+6	587¾	427½
Entain.	683¼	+10¼	1022	501¼
Flutter Entert.	13540	-140	23630	13315
Fuller Smith & Turner	730	+6	738	508
Heavitree	220		280	200
InterContinental Htl	10163½	+78¼	10308¾	5527¾
Intl Consolidated Airlines	420	+11¾	437	224½
Irish Continental Uts	557½	-2½	575	380
Marston's	64	+¼	67	33¼
Mitchells & Butlers	260	-2	291½	208½
National Express	22¼	+1	76¼	20¾
Rank Group	98½	-¼	160½	78
Saga	410	+1½	438	114¼
Wetherspoon (JD)	679½	-58½	804	541
Whitbread	2714	-38	3274	2335
AIM				
Alumasc Group	237½	-1½	395	232
Arbuthnot Banking	875	-10	1100	837½
Boohoo	22	+1	30½	10½
Camellia	4995	+65	6050	4090
Churchill China	361	+16	710	324
CML Microsystems.	249	+1	335	210
Colefax Group	975	-10	1000	750
CPP Group	67½	+7½	162	56
Cropper (James)	365	-13	400	132½
Falkland Islands.	249#	-2	316¾	162½
Fevertree Drinks	890	+17	998	644½
Filtronic	182	+8	193	82½
James Halstead	133½		181½	133
Mothercare	2		4¼	1¾
Mpac Group	350	+2½	586	270
Naked Wine.	74½	+2¼	93½	43
Nichols.	1015	+5	1465	930
Northamber	31#		34	26¼
Portmeirion.	98½		189	94
Regal Petroleum	16¼		23½	14½
Rockhopper Exploratn	73½	+4½	87¾	33¼
Ten Alps	47½		73	46½
Titon Holdings	90		97½	69
Volex.	461½	+53	461½	198¾
Young & Co Brewery A.	812	-5	992	714

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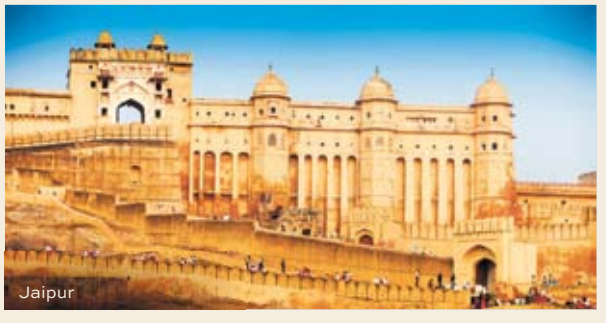
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Racing

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Henderson thrilled by Hill's schooling

By **David Yates**

CONSTITUTION HILL has been "brilliant" in his schooling as Nicky Henderson ponders a tilt at the Champion Hurdle at Cheltenham in March.

The brilliant winner of the Tuesday feature in 2023, Constitution Hill has now fallen in three of his last four races over timber.

The nine-year-old will next appear on the Flat at Southwell on February 20, but Constitution Hill's displays at home are giving his trainer food for thought.

"We are still concentrating on the jumping angle," Henderson, below, told Seven Barrows sponsor Unibet.

"We've got to be terribly happy with the way the schooling and everything has gone.

"Nothing is going wrong, he's brilliant at home, but I can't find a reason for what's going wrong on the racecourse," added Henderson, who has enlisted jumping guru Yogi Breisner to iron out Constitution Hill's jumping flaws.

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COBDEN RUNS OUT OF TIME

Harry to miss Trials Day

By **David Yates**

HARRY COBDEN will miss Cheltenham's Trials Day card on Saturday as he struggles to recover from the effects of a fall at Ascot last weekend.

Cobden, who will ride as JP McManus's retained jockey in Britain and Ireland next season, missed the winning mount aboard the owner's Jonbon in the Clarence House Chase last Saturday after taking a tumble from Neon Moon earlier in the afternoon.

The 27-year-old was due to partner the unbeaten Triumph Hurdle hope Minella Yoga for current boss Paul Nicholls, right, but will miss out.

"He won't come back for Saturday – he's very sore and he just needs a bit more time," said Cobden's agent, Sam Stronge.

"It's the sensible thing to do to give it a bit longer. The right decision is just to give it a few more days. Hopefully, he'll be back the following weekend – he may even come back during midweek – but being patient is the right thing."

Cobden's absence opens the door for Sam Twiston-Davies to ride Minella Yoga in the Grade 2 JCB Triumph Trial Juvenile Hurdle on Saturday.

Nicholls is in talks with former Ditcheat No 1 Twiston-Davies to partner the 14-time champion trainer's Grade 1 horses next season.

Minella Yoga is a 16-1 chance with William Hill for the Triumph Hurdle at Cheltenham on March 13 and Nicholls said: "Harry's shoulder is still giving him a bit of gyp, so Sam's going to ride him this weekend and he'll have a sit on him tomorrow."

❒ THE Thyestes Chase card at Gowran Park will go ahead as scheduled after the track passed a 4.30pm inspection yesterday.

ON THE SIDELINES: Harry Cobden

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THE SCOUT

12.20 KLYCOT (nap)
12.50 Starmount
1.20 Genois
1.55 Eric Carmen
2.30 She Is For Me Boys
3.05 Slievehill
3.40 You Did

12.20 JUVENILE HURDLE 4YO
£5,446 (Class 4) 2m (12 declared)

1	412	● **KLYCOT (26) (F) (T)** R Bandey 11-7	H Bannister	★123
2	1	**VIVRE LE REVE (61)** B Pauling 11-7	B R Jones	111
3	67	**ASHDOWN FOREST (21)** J O'Keeffe 11-0	Sean Quinlan	96
4	L6	**CANAVAN (21) (T)** L Russell & M Scudamore 11-0	G Walkingshaw(10)	103
5	34	**CAPTAIN CONNOR (37)** M Walford 11-0	J Hamilton	85
6	1	**CLOAKS OF GOLD (42) (D) (T)** M Comley 11-0	D Bass	113
7	R5	**DONTELIMURNAMEPIKE (41)** Ruth Jefferson 11-0	R Mania	95
8	75	**GLENRIDDING (21)** Ewan Whillans 11-0	C Bewley	103
9	L	**KNIGHTON (41)** O Greenall & J Guerriero 11-0	T Wynne	59
10	2	**MY KINDA GHAIY (23)** O Murphy 11-0	S Bowen	111
11		**TREASURE ISLANDS (F87)** T Easterby 11-0	T Midgley(3)	–
12	L	**TWILIGHT SAFARI (26)** M Hammond 11-0	B Hughes	58

TONGUE STRAP: No. 6 HOOD: Nos. 9, 12.

SP FORECAST: 9-4 Klycot, 11-4 Vivre Le Reve, 4 Cloaks Of Gold, 6 My Kinda Ghaiy, 14 Canavan, Glenridding, 16 Dontelimurnamepike, 20 Ashdown Forest, 33 Others.
2025: Melon 11-7, Henry Brooke 4-1 (O Greenall & J Guerriero), 8 ran.

12.50 EBF 'NATIONAL HUNT' NOVICES' HURDLE
£5,446 (4) 2m (12)

1	F2-1	**KAKA'S COUSIN (25)** J & A O'Neill 6 11-8	K Brogan	114
2	F1-14	● **STARMOUNT (27) (C&D)** B Pauling 6 11-8	B R Jones	★126
3	D7	**BOGHA BAISTE (62)** Lizzie Quinlan 5 11-2	Sean Quinlan	–
4	L	**HOURMAN (103) (T)** L Russell & M Scudamore 5 11-2	D R Fox	–
5	6-76	**JE MR DAWSON (39)** R Menzies 7 11-2	R Chapman	103
6	7L	**JOHNNY TWO JETS (20) (T)** R M Smith 5 11-2	T Wynne	59
7	PP53/3L-	**JUNGLE JET (315)** J Parkinson & S Smith 7 11-2	D McMenamin	–
8	5-42L6	**KNOCKERANNA ROSE (24)** S Corbett 6 11-2	C Rabbitt(3)	93
9	28	**LARGY MEADOW (20) (T)** R M Smith 6 11-2	Ben Smith(7)	94
10	F-3	**LARISTOTE (59)** D McCain 5 11-2	B Hughes	–
11	2-2156	**WILLIAM YEATS (24)** R Menzies 5 11-2	T Gillard	100
12	44	**BIG LOVE (55)** M & D Easterby 4 10-3	J Hamilton	86

TONGUE STRAP: Nos. 5, 9 HOOD: No. 9.

SP FORECAST: 2-5 Starmount, 4 Kaka's Cousin, 10 Hourman, 20 William Yeats, Laristote, 25 Big Love, 33 Jungle Jet, Bogha Baiste, 50 Others.
2025: Chart Topper 6-11-8, Mr Patrick Mullins Evens Fav (W P Mullins), 10 ran.

TRACK FACTS: GOING: Soft. Left Handed. **TOP TRACK JOCKEY (2021-26):** Brian Hughes 14% Strike rate. **TOP TRACK TRAINER (2021-26):** O Murphy 27% Strike rate. **FIRST TIME:** 1.55 River Rider (tongue strap), Forest Blaze (visor), 2.30 She Is For Me Boys (wind surgery), Taxus Baccata (tongue strap, wind surgery), 3.40 Glory Hights (cheek pieces), Cuillin Ridge (visor), 12.20 Knighton (hood), Twilight Safari (hood), 12.50 Je Mr Dawson (tongue strap), Jungle Jet (wind surgery).

1.20 HANDICAP CHASE
£7,922 (3) 2m 3f 85yds (9)

1	117-352	**PLEASINGTON (24)** O Murphy 8 12-0	S Bowen	★133
2	L/02PL7	**JOHNSON'S BLUE (20)** M Walford 9 12-0	J Hamilton	107
3	274-21P	**FINE CASTING (36)** B Pauling 10 11-10	B R Jones	130
4	12-13P2	**DOYOUKNOWWHATIMEAN (34)** G Hanmer 9 11-10	J Hogan	130
5	11PL-52	**WALK ON QUEST (42) (T)** L Russell & M Scudamore 7 11-9	D R Fox	128
6	4PLL-L1	● **GENOIS (27) (C&D)** J & A O'Neill 10 11-7	B Macey(7)	130
7	P12-118	**HELLO JUDGE (54)** A Hamilton 10 11-7	D McMenamin	128
8	214-L33	**NED TANNER (23)** N Alexander 10 11-5	Sean Quinlan	131
9	2L-5265	**GERYVILLE (27) (C&D)** M Hammond 10 11-2	B Hughes	132

BLINKERS: No. 9 TONGUE STRAP: Nos. 5, 7, 8 CHEEK PIECES: Nos. 3, 8.

SP FORECAST: 11-4 Pleasington, 9-2 Genois, 6 Walk On Quest, Doyouknowwhatimean, 7 Fine Casting, 8 Ned Tanner, 10 Others.
2025: Geryville 9-10-8, Conor O'Farrell 12-1 (M Hammond), 8 ran.

1.55 HANDICAP HURDLE
£3,169 (5) 2m 3f 154yds (16)

1	0428-59	**CARAMELO RAPIDO (25)** M Walford 7 12-0	T Midgley(3)	102
2	714-523	**FOREST BLAZE (20) (D)** M Walford 7 12-0	J Hamilton	100
3	PU-3653	**SWEEPER SYSTEM (39) (T)** S Allwood 6 11-13	T Bellamy	93
4	1P54	**SUSPECTED (24)** N Alexander 6 11-12	B Lynn	92
5	6-6F5L3	**REEL ROSIE (77) (D)** J Candlish 7 11-5	W Shanahan(5)	100
6	572/133-	**IONITY (438) (D) (T)** E Williams 7 11-3	Isabel Williams	–
7	577P5-L	**KNACKER TRAPPER (258) (D)** A Crook 8 11-1	J Williamson(3)	97
8	775-F7P	**RIVER RIDER (41) (T)** S Allwood 6 11-0	T Wynne	75
9	736-6F6	**RULER LEGEND (42)** G Hanmer 7 11-0	J Hogan	99
10	316L-13	● **ERIC CARMEN (22) (D)** G Hanmer 10 10-13	B Macey(7)	97
11	P442-96	**GOGUENARD (66) (C&D)** D J Jeffreys 10 10-7	K Woods	99
12	L323	**TOBY TWO SCOOPS (27)** M Hammond 4 10-7	B Hughes	★106
13	L-6LLL	**DIAMOND TRILOGY (77)** D Sayer 7 10-7	P J Kavanagh	94
14	87/9PL-3	**WOR LAD (39)** D Whillans 6 10-6	S Bowen	105
15	7PP7-	**MYTHICAL (F239)** Samantha & Jacqueline Coward 9 10-5	H Bannister	81
16	5L4-463	**PERFECT ARCH (41)** S G West 9 10-2	D McMenamin	102

BLINKERS: No. 12 VISOR: No. 2 TONGUE STRAP: Nos. 5, 8, 10, 16 CHEEK PIECES: Nos. 5, 10, 11, 16.

SP FORECAST: 5 Toby Two Scoops, 6 Forest Blaze, Eric Carmen, 15-2 Ionity, Sweeper System, Wor Lad, 8 Caramelo Rapido, 12 Others.
2025: Aire Spray 5-11-6, T Midgley(3) 9-2 (J Parkinson & S Smith), 16 ran.

GOSSIP FROM THE GALLOPS

Midlands: DOUBLE MEASURE (12.58 Huntingdon)
North: AISLING OSCAR
(7.00 Newcastle)
Newmarket: SILKIES SIB
(4.35 Southwell)
Lambourn: SHE IS FOR ME BOYS
(2.30 Wetherby)

JACKPOT: www.totepoolliveinfo.com

2.30 MARES' HANDICAP CHASE
£4,753 (4) 2m 3f 85yds (6)

1	611/2-4P	**POLITACUS (34)** F O'Brien 8 12-2	L Harrison	–
2	12-1110	● **SHE IS FOR ME BOYS (40)** J Snowden 7 12-0	G Sheehan	109
3	5/53-12L	**MOUNTAIN MOLLY (31) (T)** L Russell & M Scudamore 7 11-12	P W Wadge	83
4	421L8/7	**DONTYAWANTME (42)** M Walford 9 11-9	J Hamilton	–
5	25-5L38	**TAXUS BACCATA (55)** R L Llewellyn 8 11-7	Charlie Price	★115
6	1222-14	**CELESTIAL FASHION (20) (T)** I Duncan 8 10-12	C Bewley	111

TONGUE STRAP: Nos. 1, 5.

SP FORECAST: 13-8 She Is For Me Boys, 4 Politacus, 9-2 Celestial Fashion, 5 Taxus Baccata, 7 Mountain Molly, 14 Dontyawantme.
2025: Micks Jet 7-11-9, Joe Williamson(3) 4-1 (P Kirby), 9 ran.

3.05 HANDICAP HURDLE (DIV 1)
£3,169 (5) 3m 26yds (10)

1	063F70	**EVENWOOD SONOFAGUN (25) (D)** Lizzie Quinlan 8 12-0	R Chapman	★102
2	1F-L976	**ASA (31) (D)** P Kirby 7 11-13	J Williamson(3)	97
3	22041P	**WEE ALKI (43)** S Corbett 7 11-12	C Rabbitt(3)	99
4	411/45L	● **SLIEVEHILL (81)** D J Jeffreys 9 11-11	K Woods	91
5	54-L323	**LA HIGUERA (22) (T)** T Lawes 7 11-8	K Brogan	101
6	4523-3P	**SUPERIOR GLANCE (22)** G Hanmer 11 11-6	S Bowen	100
7	11/6-P73	**BOLLIN MATILDA (31) (D,F)** D Whillans 8 11-4	T Gillard	99
8	4L6PU	**DE DELI COUNTER (7)** M Walford 5 11-2	J Hamilton	87
9	4-47140	**MOVEONBUY (26)** A Crook 6 10-10	W Maggs(5)	100
10	L-6P642	**SMART BUCKS (10)** P Kirby 6 10-2	D McMenamin	99

VISOR: No. 8 TONGUE STRAP: Nos. 1, 3 CHEEK PIECES: Nos. 1, 2, 3, 5, 10.

SP FORECAST: 11-4 Wee Alki, 10-3 La Higuera, 4 Bollin Matilda, 6 Asa, 13-2 Superior Glance, 12 Smart Bucks, 20 Evenwood Sonofagun, Slievehill, 25 Others.
2025: The Big Breac 8-11-4, J Power(7) 11-10 Fav (J Parkinson & S Smith), 11 ran.

3.40 HANDICAP HURDLE (DIV 2)
£3,169 (5) 3m 26yds (10)

1	30-LLL3	**CLONDAW ROYALE (23) (D)** J & A O'Neill 7 12-0	B Macey(7)	95
2	L3-L24P	**FARMER JIMMY (22) (C)** M Walford 6 11-12	J Hamilton	101
3	L-P4111	**BOLLIN THOU (3) (F)** Nick Scholfield 8 11-12(14ex)	S Bowen	★107
4	4/PL43-P	**BALLIN BAY (76)** R Menzies 8 11-10	C Maggs(5)	97
5	556121	● **YOU DID (45) (D,F)** B Ellison 6 11-6	Sean Quinlan	98
6	1/2L-5P7	**THEATRE LIGHT (24)** S Corbett 8 11-5	Jack Power(5)	79
7	452-PP9	**GLORY HIGHTS (26)** C Grant 10 11-1	D McMenamin	104
8	67-8574	**CUILLIN RIDGE (31)** H Daly 6 11-1	D Bass	96
9	PP-64L4	**KING CASEY (21)** J E Foster 6 10-10	B Hughes	101
10	64L-PL3	**FANCY NANCY PANTS (26)** P Kirby 6 10-2	W Maggs(5)	97

VISOR: No. 8 TONGUE STRAP: No. 6 CHEEK PIECES: Nos. 3, 7, 10.

SP FORECAST: 4-6 Bollin Thou, 11-2 You Did, 7 Clondaw Royale, 10 Cuillin Ridge, 16 Farmer Jimmy, Ballin Bay, 20 Fancy Nancy Pants, 33 Others.
2025: Paddy O'Mahler 7-11-6, P Kavanagh(3) 7-4 Fav (J Parkinson & S Smith), 10 ran.

BEATEN FAVOURITES: 12.50 Laristote. 2.30 She Is For Me Boys(hcp ch). 3.05 Wee Alki(hcp hdl). **LONGEST TRAVELLER: Cloaks Of Gold** (12.20) 246 miles. **STABLE SWITCH:** 12.20 **Vivre Le Reve** from H Merienne in France to B Pauling. 1.55 **Mythical** from S Whitaker to Samantha & Jacqueline Coward, **Ruler Legend** from D Carroll to G Hanmer. 2.30 **Taxus Baccata** from M Crawley to R L Llewellyn.

CATTERICK: Soft-good to soft in places

12.47–LADRONNE (O Palmer, 6-4 fav) 1; Gold Emery (5-2 2nd fav) 2; My Bobby Dazzler (7-2) 3. H'cap 5 ran. 2³/₄, 4¹/₂l. (J Parkinson & S Smith). Tote: £2.50; pl £1.30, £1.60. exacta: £4.90. trifecta: £9.90. CSF: £5.93. Non-runner: Tiger Orchid.

1.17–KOSAC D'OUDAIRIES (G Sheehan, 4-7 fav) 1; Red Oak (7-2 2nd fav) 2; Noonetellsmenothin (5-1) 3. 13 ran. 1¹/₄l, 17l. (J Snowden). Tote: £1.58; pl £1.10, £1.40, £1.30. exacta: £3.40. trifecta: £8.10. CSF: £3.69.

1.47–MARTY MCFLY (B Hughes, 2-1 fav) 1; Diamand De Vindecy (9-1) 2; Huit Reflets (11-4 2nd fav) 3. H'cap 6 ran. 4³/₄l, shd. (A M Thomson). Tote: £3.00; pl £1.60, £3.70. exacta: £18.20. trifecta: £48.60. CSF: £18.18. Non-runner: Kingoftheswingerz.

2.20–BATHGATE (J Williamson, 11-2) 1; Inferno Sacree (6-1) 2; Gardener (80-1) 3. H'cap 15 ran. ¹/₂l, 6l. (P Kirby; 10-3 fav Kelijoe). Tote: £7.40; pl £2.70, £2.40, £22.40. exacta: £47.60. tricast: £2476.18. trifecta: £2496.30. CSF: £41.71. Non-runner: Belvedere Blast.

2.50–DEFENCE WITNESS (J Hamilton, 5-1) 1; I See The Sea (9-1) 2; Wolfburg (16-5 fav) 3. H'cap 12 ran. 1¹/₄, 3¹/₂l. (S England). Tote: £6.10; pl £1.80, £2.90, £1.60. exacta: £57.40. tricast: £172.04. trifecta: £267.40. CSF: £51.19. Non-runners: Alltalknoaction, Ballylinch.

3.20–VAMPIRE SLAYER (C Bewley, 10-1) 1; Rukaana (10-3 fav) 2; Scots Poet (9-1) 3. H'cap 13 ran. 1¹/₂l, 7l. (D Bourke). Tote: £11.00; pl £3.90, £1.80, £3.20. exacta: £75.20. tricast: £331.32. trifecta: £649.50. CSF: £45.95. Non-runners: Mexican Stan, Mr Globalist.

3.50–NIGHTFLYER (B Hughes, 16-5 2nd fav) 1; Campfield Flyer (9-1) 2; Luna Lux (11-10 fav) 3. 9 ran. 1³/₄l, 11l. (A Keatley). Tote: £4.20; pl £1.40, £2.50, £1.10. exacta: £24.30. trifecta: £83.10. CSF: £32.21.

Placepot: £60.80
(Race 1) 2, 6; (2) 1, 3, 2; (3) 1, 5; (4) 7, 8, 9; (5) 5, 1, 2; (6) 4, 2, 5.
Quadpot: £34.60

LINGFIELD: Standard

12.35–RISING FORCE (Mr Henry Callan, 5-4 fav) 1; Summer Evening (100-1) 2; Semser (16-1) 3. H'cap 8 ran. ¹/₂l, 1¹/₂l. (Darryll Holland). Tote: £2.25; pl £1.10, £18.00, £4.70. exacta: £150.40. tricast: £1509.33. trifecta: £1761.60. CSF: £125.20.

1.05–ALLEGRINO (N Currie, 5-1) 1; Foothold (10-11 fav) 2; Portman Blue (66-1) 3. 9 ran. 1¹/₂l, 1¹/₄l. (A Balding). Tote: £7.30; pl £1.10, £1.30, £7.00. exacta: £20.50. trifecta: £392.80. CSF: £10.70.

1.35–MONKS MEAD (G Bass, 10-3) 1; Iftikhaar (18-1) 2; Wrist Art (7-4 fav) 3. 9 ran. ns, 1¹/₄l. (M Usher). Tote: £4.34; pl £1.30, £4.50, £1.40. exacta: £53.40. trifecta: £168.90. CSF: £60.48. Non-runner: Al Shabab.

RESULTS

2.05–MYNA (Jason Watson, 25-1) 1; Haveagobeau (3-1 2nd fav) 2; Sun Festival (66-1) 3. 10 ran. nk, 2l. (A Carroll; 5-2 fav Thundering Breeze). Tote: £29.20; pl £6.40, £1.60, £15.40. exacta: £147.80. trifecta: £4221.20. CSF: £99.75.

2.38–MANHATTAN CHUTE (S M Levey, 50-1) 1; Desdemona (14-1) 2; Son Of Astar (11-4 fav) 3. H'cap 8 ran. hd, nk. (J & S Best). Tote: £75.10; pl £14.80, £5.30, £1.10. exacta: £535.40. tricast: £2584.05. trifecta: £4103.80. CSF: £613.60.

3.08–UNCLE NADER (Rossa Ryan, 9-2 2nd fav) 1; Hardstyle (8-11 fav) 2; Chilliconcarneigh (7-1) 3. H'cap 8 ran. 1¹/₄l, 1l. (Jack Jones). Tote: £5.50; pl £1.50, £1.10, £2.30. exacta: £9.80. tricast: £23.19. trifecta: £36.10. CSF: £8.43.

3.38–FAR TOO FIZZY (Rossa Ryan, 9-5 fav) 1; Mister Moet (11-2) 2; Warrior Queen (50-1) 3. H'cap 7 ran. 5¹/₂l, 1¹/₄l. (D Loughnane). Tote: £2.80; pl £1.40, £3.00. exacta: £12.20. trifecta: £188.40. CSF: £12.67.

4.08–TIGER CRUSADE (C Shepherd, 11-1) 1; Brunel Nation (11-1) 2; Diamondonthehill (11-4 2nd fav) 3. H'cap 9 ran. nk, hd. (D M Simcock; 5-2 fav Noble Victory). Tote: £12.40; pl £3.60, £3.90, £1.90. exacta: £124.00. tricast: £431.47. trifecta: £483.70. CSF: £128.10.

Placepot: £70.00
(Race 1) 4, 8, 7; (2) 7, 4, 1; (3) 7, 5, 9; (4) 5, 1, 6; (5) 2, 6, 1; (6) 6, 1, 7.
Quadpot: £24.10

KEMPTON: Standard to slow

4.30–ONLY IN MANILA (H Davies, 7-1) 1; New Bay Star (3-1 2nd fav) 2; Roker Roar (10-11 fav) 3. 4 ran. shd, 14l. (S & E Crisford). Tote: £8.00; exacta: £16.20. trifecta: £18.00. CSF: £25.87.

5.00–BREATHE EASY (O Murphy, 2-1 fav) 1; Leonetto (9-4 2nd fav) 2; The Some Power (5-2) 3. 12 ran. 1¹/₂l, 1³/₄l. (A Balding). Tote: £3.10; pl £1.10, £1.30, £1.50. exacta: £8.60. trifecta: £18.10. CSF: £6.99. Non-runner: Rawson.

5.30–CITY CYCLONE (W Carson, 13-2) 1; Em Four (9-1) 2; State Of Madness (4-1 2nd fav) 3. H'cap 11 ran. 1¹/₂l, hd. (A Carroll; 7-2 fav Nemov). Tote: £7.50; pl £2.20, £3.40, £1.50. exacta: £65.30. tricast: £275.24. trifecta: £364.60. CSF: £67.72. Non-runner: Invincible Speed.

6.00–KNIGHT TEMPLAR (H Crouch, 9-2) 1; Educator (11-2) 2; Appier (9-2) 3. H'cap 8 ran. 3¹/₄l, 2¹/₂l. (R Stephens; 10-3 fav Zoran). Tote: £5.50; pl £2.00, £1.90, £1.80. exacta: £28.90. tricast: £117.76. trifecta: £106.20. CSF: £29.82.

6.30–HIGH ON HOPE (H Davies, 7-2 2nd fav) 1; Joolianoss (8-1) 2; Gilet (15-8 fav) 3. H'cap 8 ran. 1l, 1¹/₂l. (M Appleby). Tote: £4.50; pl £1.70, £2.90, £1.20. exacta: £32.20. tricast: £67.80. trifecta: £115.50. CSF: £32.14.

7.00–FIGHT YOUR CORNER (H Crouch, 7-2 2nd fav) 1; Panelli (8-1) 2; I Am Me (22-1) 3. H'cap 8 ran. 1l, hd. (J Tate; 15-8 fav Shihoku). Tote: £4.50; pl £1.70, £2.10, £3.70. exacta: £24.70. tricast: £539.76. trifecta: £236.10. CSF: £32.34.

7.30–UMBRIA (H Crouch, 5-1) 1; Londoner (7-2 2nd fav) 2; Son Of Man (11-1) 3. H'cap 6 ran. 2l, 2¹/₂l. (E Walker; 6-5 fav Shrimp Shady). Tote: £5.90; pl £2.20, £2.10. exacta: £19.40. tricast: £141.28. trifecta: £82.30. CSF: £19.68. Non-runners: Woodstock City, Yokohama Woodstock City. Rule 4, deduct 5p in £

8.00–COSPICUA (L Edmunds, 25-1) 1; Onyeisi (6-5 fav) 2; Trust No One (10-3 2nd fav) 3. H'cap 5 ran. 1¹/₂l, 1¹/₄l. (J Tate). Tote: £26.00; pl £6.70, £1.40. exacta: £57.20. trifecta: £126.00. CSF: £56.67. Non-runner: Jerseygeordie.

Jackpot: Not won, pool of £3,602.74 carried over.
Placepot: £160.20
(Race 1) 3; (2) 3, 4, 9; (3) 7, 3, 8; (4) 6, 5, 1; (5) 3, 5, 1; (6) 3, 7, 8;
Quadpot: £21.60

HUNTINGDON RACINGTV

THE SCOUT

12.28 A Great Excuse
12.58 DOUBLE MEASURE (nb)
1.30 Orange Diamond
2.05 Batwomen
2.40 Low Expectations
3.15 Ace Of Spades
3.48 For A Moment

12.28 PERTEMPS NETWORK NOVICES' HANDICAP CHASE
£5,545 (Class 4) 2m 104yds (7 declared)

1 662145 **TREE TOP TYSON (25)** P Neville 6 12-1 ..... J Bowen –
2 2U2-UL4 **KAHAVARI (23)** O Greenall & J Guerriero 6 11-13 ..... Craig Nichol 107
3 121-L34 **SYNCHRONIST (27)** S Humphrey 7 11-10 ..... J Andrews(3) 110
4 P-P2L31 **TOUQUET (31) (C&D)** N Gifford 7 11-7 ..... J M Davies 111
5 0575-41 ● **A GREAT EXCUSE (40) (D)** M Comley 6 11-6 ..... T Broughton(5) 110
6 3F23-73 **PLANTAROMA (25)** T Symonds 6 11-5 ..... B Poste 114
7 2132-44 **SANITISER (58)** G & J Moore 7 11-1 ..... F Mitchell(3) ★115

BLINKERS: No. 7 TONGUE STRAP: Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5.
SOFT/HEAVY WINNERS: Nos. 2, 4.

SP FORECAST: 9-4 Touquet, 11-4 A Great Excuse, 6 Plantaroma, 13-2 Kahavari, 8 Sanitiser, 10 Synchronist, Tree Top Tyson.

12.58 PERTEMPS NETWORK MAIDEN HURDLE
£5,281 (4) 1m 7f 171yds (16)

1 20-P **BOBAJOB (46)** N Henderson 6 11-8 ..... N De Boinville –
2 **DIFFERENT DRUM (F19)** L Allan 5 11-8 ..... J Quinlan –
3 LL **DINO MOON (14)** E Williams 5 11-8 ..... C Ring 30
4 1-24 ● **DOUBLE MEASURE (61)** D Skelton 5 11-8 ..... H Skelton ★127
5 3-2437 **HANS LIPPERSHEY (27)** B Case 5 11-8 ..... S Twiston-Davies 104
6 1/1-0 **JORAH D'ALMA (55)** F O'Brien 7 11-8 ..... B Sutton(5) 62
7 U1-46 **KADO SACREE (40)** O Murphy 6 11-8 ..... R T Dunne 110
8 4- **LAIOS TRESOR (354)** G Howell 5 11-8 ..... Tabitha Worsley(3) –
9 L1/ **LIMIER D'ARTHEL (648) (T)** P Hobbs & J White 5 11-8 ..... C Pritchard(3) –
10 17 **LOUSTIC DU CHATEL (36)** Miss H Knight 5 11-8 ..... B J Powell 90
11 4 **LULLY DU HOUX (58)** K Bailey & M Nicholls 5 11-8 ..... C Gethings 95
12 86-U52 **NIGHT RIDE HOME (19)** N Henderson 5 11-8 ..... F Gordon 110
13 33-L2 **PERTEMPS (34)** O Murphy 6 11-8 ..... J Bowen 111
14 **SIMS' LAW** J & A O'Neill 5 11-8 ..... Jonjo O'Neill Jr –
15 4-3 **THE DEN MASTER (60)** T Ellis 5 11-8 ..... J Andrews(3) –
16 **PAPA OSCAR (F149)** C Hobson 4 10-9 ..... B Poste –

HOOD: No. 16.

SP FORECAST: 5-6 Double Measure, 4 Pertemps, 10 Night Ride Home, 12 Limier D'arthel, 14 Bobajob, Lully Du Houx, 16 Sims' Law, Loustic Du Chatel, 20 Others.

1.30 PERTEMPS NOVICES' HANDICAP CHASE
£4,489 (5) 2m 7f 129yds (10)

1 20LL3-2 **LIMETREE BOY (21)** J & A O'Neill 10 12-0 ..... Jonjo O'Neill Jr 101
2 111421 ● **ORANGE DIAMOND (27) (D)** T Ellis 8 12-0 ..... J Andrews(3) 102
3 567-132 **MOOR END (25)** Mrs E Bishop 7 11-10 ..... Lilly Pinchin ★109
4 24P5/4-1 **ANNIE EXPRESS (7) (D)** R L Llewellyn 8 11-10 ..... T McCain-Mitchell(5) 108
5 292/1L-4 **CALL ME ARTHUR (43)** T Lacey 7 11-7 ..... S Sheppard 91
6 2376 4/P **THERE'S CLAUDE (31) (T)** P Gundry 8 11-4 ..... C Pritchard(3) –
7 L445BL **LORD MAHER (49)** K Jewell 6 11-0 ..... T Cannon 100
8 578PI7 **HARDY BUCK (42)** M Comley 8 10-12 ..... L Scott(3) 72
9 375-36L **HONNEUR DE SIVOLA (58)** C Hobson 9 10-2 ..... B Poste 72
10 LL8P-PL **VOLEUR DE TERRES (39)** C Dyson 8 10-2 ..... Lee Edwards 44

TONGUE STRAP: Nos. 2, 6, 9 CHEEK PIECES: Nos. 1, 8, 9.

SP FORECAST: 7-4 Annie Express, 3 Orange Diamond, 9-2 Limetree Boy, 6 Moor End, 12 Call Me Arthur, 14 Hardy Buck, 25 Lord Maher, Honneur De Sivola, 33 Others.

2.05 PERTEMPS NETWORK MARES' HANDICAP CHASE
£5,545 (4) 2m 7f 129yds (4)

1 331-336 ● **BATWOMEN (40)** N Mulholland 8 12-0 ..... C O'Farrell 116
2 2LLL-2L **EASY TO FOLLOW (45)** Dr R Newland & J Insole 8 11-4 ..... L Scott(3) ★117
3 114/P-R6 **FLOWING CADENZA (33)** V Williams 12 11-3 ..... C Deutsch 109
4 14-2L1L **WHERE'S CATO (36)** E Williams 7 11-0 ..... C Ring –

TONGUE STRAP: No. 1 CHEEK PIECES: No. 2.

SP FORECAST: 13-8 Batwomen, 5-2 Easy To Follow, 11-4 Flowing Cadenza, 11-2 Where's Cato.

2.40 ALBERT BARTLETT TRIPLE CROWN SERIES HCAP HDL
£5,281 (4) 2m 4f 145yds (18)

1 2/L21-3 **DUFFRY TRIXS (40)** R Bandey 7 12-0 ..... J Quinlan 113
2 16-348P **GOLD FOR ALEC (10) (C&D)** T Symonds 6 12-0 ..... B Poste 114
3 04PL3-3 **ROYAL WAY (74)** G & J Moore 6 11-13 ..... Sean Houlihan ★117
4 23-411F **NAZARE (23) (D,F)** James Owen 6 11-12 ..... S Twiston-Davies 110
5 636-1P3 **THE LONG WALK (27)** J & A O'Neill 6 11-12 ..... Jonjo O'Neill Jr 116
6 1224-94 **ESCAPOLOGIST (239)** James Owen 7 11-12 ..... A Chadwick(3) 110
7 2-12140 **SERVICE MINIMUM (90)** D Skelton 6 11-10 ..... T Durrell 114
8 1-3L **LUNDI NOIR (62)** T Lacey 5 11-8 ..... S Sheppard 113
9 253/2L-5 **CAN'T RESIST IT (41)** F O'Brien 7 11-7 ..... J J Burke 113
10 FF21P-4 **A MERE BAGATELLE (144)** James Owen 9 11-7 ..... J Bowen 115
11 3412-F8 **I'VE MADEUPMYMIND (26)** B Pauling 6 11-6 ..... C Pritchard(3) 115
12 422-44 **NORTHANGER ABBEY (43) (T)** P Hobbs & J White 6 11-6 .. B Sutton(5) 110
13 46-1114 ● **LOW EXPECTATIONS (32)** N Gifford 6 11-4 ..... J M Davies 115
14 6-44 **HIDDEN TARGET (24)** R Phillips 7 11-4 ..... F Lambert(3) 110
15 843-2L0 **MOAB (34)** Miss H Knight 6 11-4 ..... B J Powell 115
16 393P/3-8 **ITALIAN SPIRIT (53)** H Dickin 10 11-2 ..... Doubtful 97
17 8/8651 **ALBIE LITTLEWOOD (31) (C)** D Skelton 7 11-1 ..... H Skelton 112
18 LP7838 **BREAD AND BUTTER (61) (C&D)** Cynthia Woods 11 10-10 .. L Stones(3) 115

VISOR: No. 10 TONGUE STRAP: Nos. 3, 9, 10, 18 CHEEK PIECES: Nos. 2, 6, 16.

SP FORECAST: 9-2 Albie Littlewood, 6 Nazare, 7 Royal Way, 8 The Long Walk, 10 Lundi Noir, 12 Northanger Abbey, A Mere Bagatelle, I've Madeupmymind, Escapologist, 14 Others.

3.15 PERTEMPS NETWORK HANDICAP HURDLE
£13,008 (2) 3m 1f 10yds (7)

1 142-142 ● **ACE OF SPADES (21)** D Skelton 7 12-0 ..... H Skelton 132
2 40/LLPP- **BOLD ENDEAVOUR (369)** N Henderson 10 11-10 ..... J Bowen –
3 LL2-11F **ONEWAYWEST (27)** B Pauling 7 11-6 ..... Beau Morgan(5) 132
4 132154 **DON VIRGINIA (24)** J & A O'Neill 6 11-5 ..... Jonjo O'Neill Jr 133
5 3142/01 **BENIGN DICTATOR (22)** O Murphy 9 11-4 ..... J Bryan 134
6 472411/ **LOUP DE MAULDE (667) (C&D)** R L Llewellyn 9 11-3 .. T McCain-Mitchell(5) –
7 6211-3L **SOLE SOLUTION (23)** V Williams 8 10-11 ..... C Deutsch ★137

TONGUE STRAP: No. 6 CHEEK PIECES: Nos. 2, 4, 6.

SP FORECAST: 13-8 Ace Of Spades, 11-4 Onewaywest, 5 Benign Dictator, 10 Don Virginia, Sole Solution, 12 Loup De Maulde, Bold Endeavour.

3.48 MARES' MAIDEN NH FLAT RACE (COND & AMAT)
£2,178 (5) 1m 7f 171yds (10)

1 4-24 **AFFRIC KINTAIL (58)** A Ralph 5 11-4 ..... T McCain-Mitchell(5) 98
2 **BRIERY BLUEBELLE** Noel Williams 5 11-4 ..... J Tidball(5) –
3 5 **ELATED (63)** B Pauling 5 11-4 ..... C Pritchard(3) 101
4 3- **EMERALD QUEST (570)** N Mulholland 6 11-4 ..... B Harris(3) –
5 2-2 ● **FOR A MOMENT (50)** F O'Brien 6 11-4 ..... Fern O'Brien(5) 96
6 **LADY BAMBURGH** M Hammond 5 11-4 ..... J Thompson(7) –
7 22 **LADY BLACKMORE (96)** A Ralph 5 11-4 ..... J Turner(5) –
8 2 **LADY BOUJEE (49)** D Skelton 5 11-4 ..... T Durrell 91
9 **SKYE GLANCE** A Hales 5 11-4 ..... L Scott(3) –
10 7 **ROXY RUSSET (36)** C Longsdon 4 10-5 ..... L Saunders(5) ★102

TONGUE STRAP: No. 4.

SP FORECAST: 7-2 For A Moment, 4 Lady Boujee, 11-2 Roxy Russet, 7 Emerald Quest, Elated, Affric Kintail, 12 Lady Blackmore, 14 Briery Bluebelle, 16 Others.

TRACK FACTS: GOING: Soft. Right Handed. **TOP TRACK JOCKEY (2021-26):** Harry Skelton 22% Strike rate. **TOP TRACK TRAINER (2021-26):** F O'Brien 24% Strike rate. **FIRST TIME:** 1.30 There's Claude (tongue strap), 2.40 Italian Spirit (cheek pieces), Gold For Alec (cheek pieces), 3.48 Emerald Quest (tongue strap), 12.28 Sanitiser (blinkers), Kahavari (tongue strap), A Great Excuse (tongue strap), 12.58 Papa Oscar (hood), Bobajob (wind surgery). **BEATEN FAVOURITES:** 12.58 The Den Master. 2.40 Escapologist(hcp hdl), Lundi Noir(hcp hdl), Nazare(hcp hdl). 3.15 Ace Of Spades(hcp hdl), Onewaywest(hcp hdl). **LONGEST TRAVELLER: Limier D'arthel** (12.58) & **Northanger Abbey** (2.40) 209 miles. **STABLE SWITCH:** 12.58 **Laios Tresor** from S Curling in Ireland to G Howell, **Limier D'arthel** from E Clayeux in France to P Hobbs & J White, **The Den Master** from Mrs G Andrews to T Ellis. 3.15 **Bold Endeavour** from L Morgan to N Henderson. 3.48 **Lady Blackmore** from C Bowe in Ireland to A Ralph.

VITAL STATISTICS

IN-FORM TRAINERS (last 10 days) A Keatley 100% (5 wins and 0 places from 5 runners), J O'Keeffe 75% (1/2/4), O Murphy 62% (8/10/29), B Millman 60% (1/2/5), M Attwater 60% (2/7/15), A Hales 50% (1/3/8), K Bailey & M Nicholls 50% (2/2/8), K R Burke 50% (2/2/8), Nick Scholfield 50% (2/2/8), P Kirby 50% (2/6/16), R Hannon 50% (2/2/8), S Hanlon 50% (1/1/4).

IN-FORM JOCKEYS Stevie Donohoe 75% (1 wins and 2 places from 4 runners), Paddy Bradley 64% (5/4/14), Brian Hughes 57% (8/4/21), Dylan Hogan 56% (3/2/9), Sean Bowen 54% (9/10/35), Ben Jones 52% (9/4/25), C Whiteley 50% (1/1/4), Ethan Tindall 50% (1/2/6), Harry Skelton 50% (6/6/24), Jack Nicholls 50% (2/1/6), Joe Williamson 50% (1/1/4), Jonathan Burke 50% (5/6/22).

SOUTHWELL SKYSPORTSRACING

1.05 APPRENTICE HANDICAP
£3,140 (Class 6) 4f 214yds (8 declared)

1 (8) 41155-1 ● **SAM'S HOPE (9) (C&D,F)** Martin Dunne 6 10-2(5ex) R Kavanagh(3) ★74
2 (3) L08LL-7 **HONOUR YOUR DREAMS (20) (D)** M Attwater 6 9-11 J Glennon(7) 65
3 (1) /6422-2 **THECOFFEEPODDOTCO (20)** R Hannon 4 9-11 .. A Voikhansky 70
4 (5) 76811L- **TWILIGHT MADNESS (22) (C&D)** S Hodgson 8 9-11 Taryn Langley(3) 72
5 (6) 0L/38LL- **CAST NO SHADOW (57) (D)** H Palmer 5 9-9 .. Z Wheatley 60
6 (4) 15737-3 **LEVEL UP (12) (C&D)** P Evans 7 9-8 ..... J Dace(3) 73
7 (7) 283341- **PAPA DON'T PREACH (31) (D)** K Frost 7 9-6 .. D Goucher(7) 71
8 (2) 04155-L **NEPTUNE LEGEND (14) (C)** J Owen 7 9-4 .. M Paetel(3) 72

BLINKERS: Nos. 5, 6 TONGUE STRAP: Nos. 1, 8 CHEEK PIECES: Nos. 3, 7.

SP FORECAST: 13-8 Sam's Hope, 3 Thecoffeepoddotco, 5 Papa Don't Preach, 8 Level Up, 10 Twilight Madness, 12 Neptune Legend, 20 Others.

1.40 HANDICAP (DIV 1)
£4,711 (6) 7f 14yds (10)

1 (2) 422L4-3 **DREAM ILLUSION (19) (D)** M Herrington 4 9-9 .. D E Hogan 67
2 (1) 977L0L- **HABRDI (24) (D)** R Carr 5 9-9 ..... JP Sullivan ★71
3 (4) LU93-32 ● **SANDITON (15)** C Johnston 4 9-8 ..... C Shepherd 69
4 (8) 80523-7 **CILL MOCHEALLOG (19) (D)** D Ivory 5 9-8 ..... R Havlin 69
5 (10) 146604- **CLOCH NUA (24) (C&D)** T & S Culhane & S Barclay 7 9-7 S Donohoe 67
6 (3) 6507 90- **FAST BULLET (101)** I Mohammed 4 9-6 .. Mason Paetel(5) 68
7 (7) 47454-5 **GUNDOGAN (15)** A Carroll 5 9-5 ..... W Carson 70
8 (5) LLLL9-L **ROGUE SOLDIER (16)** M Young 6 9-3 ..... C Hutchinson 50
9 (6) 2L1L2-6 **CHLOE'S COURAGE (10) (D)** J Ryan 4 9-3 ..... D Keenan 68
10 (9) 3658-95 **EMBARKED (5) (C&D)** S Dixon 8 8-9 ..... K O'Neill 65

BLINKERS: Nos. 3, 4, 9, 10 TONGUE STRAP: No. 4 CHEEK PIECES: Nos. 1, 2.

SP FORECAST: 9-4 Sanditon, 4 Cloch Nua, Dream Illusion, 8 Cill Mocheallog, Gundogan, 10 Chloe's Courage, 14 Habrdi, 16 Fast Bullet, 20 Others.

2.15 HANDICAP (DIV 2)
£4,711 (6) 7f 14yds (9)

1 (5) 514544- **RUSHEEN BOY (56) (C,D)** J & S Birkett 5 9-9 .. D E Hogan 69
2 (7) 8877-6L **SIMPLY BLUE (11) (D)** James Owen 4 9-8 ..... P Bradley 65
3 (6) 336236- **BOMB SQUAD (24) (C&D)** J Mackie 8 9-8 ..... F Marsh ★71
4 (1) 9646L6- **ACT OF VIOLENCE (26)** D Loughnane 5 9-7 ..... H Doyle 68
5 (2) 24470-1 ● **OPERATION GIMCRACK (19) (C&D,F)** B Smart 6 9-7 D Nolan 67
6 (4) 7466-14 **MOYOWASI (9) (C&D)** I Williams 4 9-6 ..... E Greatrex 68
7 (3) L17375- **ARDADDY (24) (C&D)** G Tuer 4 9-5 ..... O Stammers 70
8 (8) 51646-5 **FLASH THE DASH (12) (C&D)** J Camacho 7 9-3 .. L Edmunds 66
9 (9) LL639-7 **SIX OF DIAMONDS (18)** S Dixon 6 8-9 ..... K O'Neill 66

TONGUE STRAP: No. 1 CHEEK PIECES: Nos. 2, 3, 6, 9 EYE COVERS: No. 4.

SP FORECAST: 2 Operation Gimcrack, 4 Moyowasi, 13-2 Rusheen Boy, 8 Bomb Squad, Ardaddy, 10 Act Of Violence, 12 Others.

TRACK FACTS: GOING: Standard. Left Handed. **TOP TRACK JOCKEY (2021-26):** Lewis Edmunds 11% Strike rate. **TOP TRACK TRAINER (2021-26):** M Appleby 10% Strike rate. **FIRST TIME:** 1.40 Sanditon (blinkers), 2.15 Moyowasi (cheek pieces), Act Of Violence (eye shields), 4.00 Not So Sobers (hood), 4.35 Wadacre Moriarty (blinkers), Silkies Sib (visor), Ring Fenced (tongue strap), 5.40 Fort Augustus (hood). **BEATEN FAVOURITES:** 1.05 Thecoffeepoddotco, Twilight Madness(hcp). 1.40 Sanditon(hcp). 2.15 Rusheen Boy(hcp). 2.50 Autumn Angel(hcp). 3.25 Laurens Dream, Royal Jet. 4.35 Silkies Sib(hcp). 5.40 Profit Street(hcp). **DRAW:** No advantage. **LONGEST TRAVELLER: Blueaway** (5.10) 216 miles. **STABLE SWITCH:** 1.40 **Cloch Nua** from Mrs Stella Barclay to T & S Culhane & S Barclay. 5.10 **Elashgar** from R Hannon to K Frost. 5.40 **Pure Artistry** from M Bell to Charlie Clover.

THE SCOUT

1.05 Sam's Hope
1.40 Sanditon
2.15 Operation Gimcrack
2.50 American Rose
3.25 LAURENS DREAM
4.00 Nunc Est Bibendum
4.35 Silkies Sib
5.10 Space Moon
5.40 Hint Of The Jungle

2.50 CLASSIFIED STAKES (DIV 1)
£4,711 (6) 7f 14yds (9)

1 (8) 05467-2 ● **AMERICAN ROSE (9) (D)** H Evans 6 9-9 ..... W Cox ★58
2 (4) 5L99-24 **AUTUMN ANGEL (6) (C&D)** A Carroll 7 9-9 .. R Kavanagh(5) 56
3 (3) 426L9-6 **BELLA LOVE (12)** I Furtado 4 9-9 ..... J Nason(3) 52
4 (6) LL3496- **BROTHER DAVE (136) (C&D)** R Carr 6 9-9 .. JP Sullivan 53
5 (7) 666966- **DARLA'S SECRET (48)** S Spencer 4 9-9 ..... D Swift 48
6 (2) 584-937 **EVOLUIR (2) (C,D)** M Hammond 5 9-9 ..... A Brookes(3) 53
7 (1) L86- **LOWESTOFT (31)** C Dunnett 4 9-9 ..... K O'Neill 34
8 (5) 409-5L7 **SHE'SASHAMBLES (2)** Phillip Makin 5 9-9 .. J Nicholls(5) 47
9 (9) 7332 7-4 **WRATH OF HECTOR (9) (C&D,F)** Jessica Macey 9 9-9 L Edmunds 55

BLINKERS: No. 2 CHEEK PIECES: No. 9 HOOD: No. 3.

SP FORECAST: 9-4 Autumn Angel, 5-2 American Rose, 5 Wrath Of Hector, Bella Love, 12 Brother Dave, 16 Evoluir, Darla's Secret, 20 She'sashambles, 50 Lowestoft.

3.25 CLASSIFIED STAKES (DIV 2)
£4,711 (6) 7f 14yds (8)

1 (2) 40L8-86 **ANIFICAS BEAUTY (9) (D)** P Winks 7 9-9 ..... J Dace(5) 45
2 (1) L44L-97 **BARNEY'S BAY (12) (C)** D Shaw 8 9-9 ..... JP Sullivan 46
3 (4) 54L65-3 **CAPTAIN PICKLES (9)** T & S Culhane & S Barclay 4 9-9 S Donohoe 52
4 (8) L9/003-5 **ISLA BELLA (14)** Joey Ramsden 4 9-9 ..... L Edmunds 57
5 (6) 766-622 ● **LAURENS DREAM (9) (D,F)** M & D Easterby 4 9-9 Joanna Mason ★59
6 (5) 23281-3 **ROYAL JET (10) (D)** A Carroll 6 9-9 ..... W Carson 58
7 (3) 278-043 **TOOTSIE (7) (F)** P McEntee 4 9-9 ..... Grace McEntee 51
8 (7) L9L2-LL **WORLD OF DARCY (10)** J Ryan 5 9-9 ..... D Keenan 56

BLINKERS: No. 8 VISOR: No. 2 TONGUE STRAP: No. 7 CHEEK PIECES: Nos. 5, 7 HOOD: No. 6.

SP FORECAST: 7-4 Laurens Dream, 2 Royal Jet, 6 Isla Bella, 8 Captain Pickles, 12 Tootsie, 16 World Of Darcy, Anificas Beauty, 33 Barney's Bay.

4.00 MAKE THE MOVE TO MIDNITE HANDICAP
£3,716 (5) 1m 6f 21yds (9)

1 (7) 0L31-11 ● **NUNC EST BIBENDUM (10) (C)** G & J Moore 5 10-4(5ex) Jude Fernandes(7) 74
2 (9) 646- **GEORDIE MACKEM (63)** B Ellison 6 9-13 ..... B Robinson 68
3 (8) 417334- **SIMIYANN (J36) (D)** I Williams 6 9-10 .. R Kavanagh(5) 76
4 (5) 43228-3 **PRINCE QUATTRO (10)** James Owen 7 9-9 Mason Paetel(5) 75
5 (1) 000644- **FURTHER MEASURE (42) (C&D)** M Murphy 9 9-6 C Shepherd 73
6 (2) 587- **NOT SO SOBERS (38)** D Killahena & G McPherson 7 9-5 C Hutchinson 70
7 (3) 255393- **FLEUR DE MER (26)** M Todhunter 6 9-4 ..... D Nolan ★77
8 (4) 6661-41 **ARC ZOOSVE (15)** N King 5 9-4 ..... R Havlin 74
9 (6) 11L09-L **ZEPHLYN (16) (C)** T Ellis 7 9-4 ..... G Fairley 73

TONGUE STRAP: No. 9 CHEEK PIECES: Nos. 3, 5, 8 HOOD: No. 6.

SP FORECAST: 4-6 Nunc Est Bibendum, 9-2 Arc Zoosve, 10 Simiyann, 12 Prince Quattro, Fleur De Mer, 16 Geordie Mackem, 20 Further Measure, 25 Zephlyn, 50 Not So Sobers.

4.35 HANDICAP
£3,140 (6) 1m 3f 23yds (12)

1 (5) 0L051-3 ● **SILKIES SIB (14)** James Owen 6 9-9 ..... P Cosgrave ★65
2 (7) 449352- **ALFRED SPERO (24) (F)** G Tutty 4 9-6 ..... F Marsh 61
3 (3) 570/00L- **ABU ROYAL (142)** L Morgan 6 9-6 ..... S D Bowen 51
4 (8) L4L823- **MRS MEADER (131)** J & S Birkett 10 9-6 ..... D E Hogan 63
5 (1) 52606-4 **NIGHT BEAR (18) (C)** A Carroll 9 9-6 ..... W Carson 64
6 (10) 430/8L9- **VERY CLASSY (136)** Suzzanne France 6 9-2 Z Wheatley(3) 58
7 (9) 470/30- **RING FENCED (267) (D)** M Hammond 7 9-1 .. A Brookes(3) 59
8 (6) 9D709-5 **BROADSTONE (16)** J Norton 4 9-0 ..... JP Sullivan 56
9 (4) 73L40-6 **BOND SPIRIT (18) (C)** L Allan 7 9-0 ..... R Havlin 59
10 (11) L5L87-L **STONEACRE (5)** S Dixon 6 9-0 ..... K O'Neill 55
11 (12) 78L97/9- **EASTER SUNDAE (33)** J Wainwright 7 9-0 .. Joanna Mason 22
12 (2) L6L-9 **WADACRE MORIARTY (16)** C Johnston 4 8-12 .. C Shepherd 39

BLINKERS: Nos. 7, 12 VISOR: Nos. 1, 5, 9 TONGUE STRAP: No. 7 CHEEK PIECES: Nos. 8, 10.

SP FORECAST: 9-4 Silkies Sib, 5-2 Alfred Spero, 4 Mrs Meader, 5 Night Bear, 20 Broadstone, Bond Spirit, Ring Fenced, 25 Easter Sundae, Abu Royal, Very Classy, 50 Others.

5.10 MAIDEN STAKES
£5,400 (4) 6f 16yds (12)

1 (10) 6/7 **HAMMAL (10)** M Young 5 10-2 ..... K O'Neill 39
2 (6) 6- **HIGHFIELD JEWEL (25)** Sara Ender 4 9-11 .. Joanna Mason 58
3 (12) L- **ELASHGAR (155)** K Frost 3 9-0 ..... A Voikhansky 36
4 (1) 3-6 **FOXTROT FLYER (19) (F)** K R Burke 3 9-0 ..... P-L Jamin 65
5 (9) 4- **GREY FORCE (22)** C Johnston 3 9-0 ..... C Shepherd 57
6 (5) L4- **KAMEKO FEVER (24)** R Fahey 3 9-0 ..... E Tindall(7) 62
7 (3) 43- **MR JUGGLES (35)** M Appleby 3 9-0 ..... R Havlin 62
8 (8) 64 **TACTICAL BLITZ (10)** A Watson 3 9-0 ..... H Doyle ★66
9 (7) **Y Y STAR** P Evans 3 9-0 ..... P Cosgrave –
10 (11) L5- **BLUEAWAY (34) (T)** B Millman 3 8-9 ..... L Edmunds 50
11 (4) 3- ● **SPACE MOON (24)** B Ellison 3 8-9 .. Shay Farmer(7) 63
12 (2) 87- **WHAT A TAHOO (24)** R Fahey 3 8-9 ..... JP Sullivan 43

HOOD: No. 10.

SP FORECAST: 7-2 Tactical Blitz, 9-2 Space Moon, 5 Foxtrot Flyer, Grey Force, 11-2 Mr Juggles, 13-2 Kameko Fever, 16 Y Y Star, 20 Highfield Jewel, 25 Others.

5.40 HANDICAP
£3,140 (6) 6f 16yds (12)

1 (10) 0057L3- **ALBERT CEE (35) (D,F)** P & J Clutterbuck 6 9-9 .. D E Hogan 69
2 (8) 47347-L **REDDEEF (12)** Michael Keady 4 9-9 ..... Taylor Fisher(3) 70
3 (1) 641269- **PURE ARTISTRY (128) (D)** Charlie Clover 4 9-8 .. D Keenan 69
4 (5) 37798-5 **FORT AUGUSTUS (15)** C Wallis 4 9-8 ..... Joanna Mason 62
5 (2) 76549-9 **SWISS ACE (18)** R Carr 8 9-8 ..... JP Sullivan ★71
6 (7) 4L0632- **THANK THE LORD (44) (D) (T)** Mr W G Harrison 7 9-7 J Gormley 67
7 (6) L5132-3 **PROFIT STREET (9) (D)** James Owen 5 9-6 ..... F Marsh 69
8 (9) 3444L-3 **INITIAL BLUE (20) (D)** Dr R Newland & J Insole 4 9-5 R Havlin 69
9 (12) 647066- **RAMBUSO CREEK (35)** M Herrington 7 9-5 .. L Edmunds 66
10 (11) 41702-5 ● **HINT OF THE JUNGLE (18) (C&D)** M Murphy 5 9-3 P Bradley 69
11 (4) 6008L-4 **BACK TOMORROW (16) (C&D) (T)** Ewan Whillans 6 8-11 G Fairley 66
12 (3) 43006-3 **SUPERNOVA STEPS (10) (C&D)** D Loughnane 5 8-9 J Dace(5) 67

BLINKERS: Nos. 2, 5, 11 VISOR: Nos. 6, 7 TONGUE STRAP: Nos. 1, 2, 3, 10, 11 CHEEK PIECES: Nos. 1, 9 EYE COVERS: No. 12 HOOD: No. 4.

SP FORECAST: 7-2 Albert Cee, 9-2 Profit Street, 5 Thank The Lord, 7 Supernova Steps, 15-2 Initial Blue, 12 Hint Of The Jungle, Rambuso Creek, 14 Pure Artistry, 16 Others.

NEWCASTLE SKYSPORTSRACING

THE SCOUT

3.55 Time Turner
4.25 Dakota Breeze
5.00 Aly A'ali
5.30 Bridget's View
6.00 Giles Glory
6.30 Night Storm
7.00 Golden Strike

5.00 HANDICAP 3YO
£3,140 (6) 5f (8)

1 (2) 745- ● **ALY A'ALI (125) (T)** J Ferguson 9-9 ..... J Peate 62
2 (1) 654-6 **YA HABIBTI (15) (T)** D Cunha 9-9 ..... Jason Watson 63
3 (7) 30644- **MYSTICAL LAND (37)** M Dods 9-8 ..... S B Kirrane 61
4 (6) 00815-7 **THE TUNGUSKA EVENT (21) (C)** J & S Quinn 9-6 .. J Hart 66
5 (8) 3374-22 **MADEMOISELLE BELLE (5) (F)** B Ellison 9-4 .... C Hardie 65
6 (4) 5L348-8 **HAVIN A FLYER (2)** R Menzies 9-3 ..... Doubtful ★68
7 (5) 7760- **CONTORNO (120)** T Tate 9-2 ..... H Crouch 61
8 (3) 9LL- **AMAZON JUNGLE (190)** J & S Quinn 8-9 .. W Fentiman(5) 61

BLINKERS: No. 3 VISOR: No. 4 TONGUE STRAP: No. 6 CHEEK PIECES: No. 1.

SP FORECAST: 9-4 Aly A'ali, 11-4 Mystical Land, 7-2 Mademoiselle Belle, 11-2 Ya Habibti, 12 The Tunguska Event, 16 Contorno, Amazon Jungle.

5.30 BET 10 GET 40 WITH BETMGM HANDICAP
£7,956 (3) 1m 5yds (8)

1 (7) 58171 0- **ANGEL HUNTER (36) (D) (T)** R Hannon 4 9-10 .. C Hardie 97
2 (4) 302887- **NIKOVO (56) (C&D)** M Herrington 7 9-9 ..... J Hart 95
3 (5) 521/91- ● **BRIDGET'S VIEW (41) (D,F) (T)** E Walker 4 9-7 Jack Doughty 95
4 (3) 5/L11L2- **DINGLE (36) (C&D)** J Camacho 8 9-6 ..... Jason Watson 98
5 (8) 41143-3 **TRIBAL WISDOM (19) (D) (T)** I Williams 7 9-0 .. H Crouch 97
6 (1) 4/3418-L **HELMSLEY (19)** I Furtado 4 8-12 ..... B McHugh 97
7 (6) 34453-3 **URBAN ROAD (21) (C&D)** A Brown 7 8-10 .. Kaiya Fraser 97
8 (2) 8122-53 **BAJAN BANDIT (9) (C,D)** P Morris 6 8-5 ..... L Morris ★99

VISOR: No. 7 TONGUE STRAP: No. 5.

SP FORECAST: 2 Bridget's View, 9-2 Dingle, 5 Tribal Wisdom, 6 Bajan Bandit, 7 Angel Hunter, 8 Urban Road, 12 Nikovo, 33 Helmsley.

6.00 HANDICAP 3YO
£3,140 (6) 7f 14yds (7)

1 (4) 934L64- **THE CADDY MASTER (94)** K Ryan 9-9 ..... S Gray 65
2 (1) 489- **QUIET SERENADE (24)** I Furtado 9-6 ..... B McHugh 56
3 (6) 78561-7 **SURGEON COMMANDER (10) (C&D)** Craig Lidster 9-5 J Hart 63
4 (3) 8974-14 ● **GILES GLORY (8) (D,F) (T)** J Parr 9-5 ..... L Morris ★66
5 (2) 5546-55 **MAYNORA (3)** Craig Lidster 9-3 ..... S B Kirrane 62
6 (5) 99-7 **FICKLE MCSELFISH (19)** T Coyle & K Wood 9-2 O McSweeney 58
7 (7) 9L663 3- **RUNNINMAN (33) (F)** S Hanlon 9-1 ..... P Mulrennan 64

BLINKERS: No. 3 TONGUE STRAP: No. 4 CHEEK PIECES: Nos. 4, 5, 7.

SP FORECAST: 2 Giles Glory, 5-2 Runninman, 4 The Caddy Master, 11-2 Surgeon Commander, 12 Maynora, 16 Fickle Mcselfish, 20 Quiet Serenade.

6.30 HANDICAP
£4,972 (4) 5f (8)

1 (7) 0/11- ● **NIGHT STORM (58) (C&D,F) (T)** J Tate 4 9-11 .. H Crouch 90
2 (2) 5325/11- **BUZZ BOX (324) (C&D)** M Herrington 5 9-7 ..... J Hart 91
3 (4) 200675- **VANTHEMAN (104) (C&D)** K Ryan 5 9-5 ..... S Gray 90
4 (3) 02235L- **VENTURA EXPRESS (110) (D)** P Midgley 9 9-3 .. P Mulrennan 94
5 (5) 4612-1L **KING'S CROWN (9) (C&D)** M Dods 6 9-2 ..... S B Kirrane 90
6 (8) 242346- **POP STAR (24) (D)** I Jardine 6 9-0 ..... A Mullen 95
7 (1) 5L5377- **ARNHEM (24) (D)** J Goldie 10 9-0 ..... Lauren Young(5) ★96
8 (6) 1L083-9 **GLORY FIGHTER (16) (D)** P Midgley 10 8-9 ..... B McHugh 86

TONGUE STRAP: Nos. 5, 6 CHEEK PIECES: No. 5.

SP FORECAST: 6-4 Night Storm, 2 Buzz Box, 13-2 Vantheman, 10 King's Crown, 12 Arnhem, 20 Ventura Express, Pop Star, 25 Glory Fighter.

7.00 HANDICAP
£6,281 (5) 7f 14yds (12)

1 (4) 6514-35 **JUDGMENT CALL (6) (C,D)** Miss L Perratt 8 9-9 Kaiya Fraser 79
2 (10) 14066-6 **NOVAK (21) (C&D)** I Jardine 7 9-9 ..... C Tuke(7) 78
3 (1) 54L613- **BOBBY JOE LEG (24) (C&D)** R Carr 12 9-9 T Kiely-Marshall(5) 76
4 (2) 0/7085- ● **GOLDEN STRIKE (168)** R Fahey 5 9-8 ..... J Garritty 77
5 (8) 22413-5 **FLOWSTATE (10) (C&D)** D O'Meara 5 9-6 .. Jason Watson 80
6 (7) 93711-2 **GOLDMOYNE (12) (C,D,F) (T)** James Owen 4 9-5 .. L Morris ★82
7 (3) 2321-62 **TASEVER (2) (C&D)** P Morris 6 9-3 ..... A Redman(7) 79
8 (12) 8L053-3 **JAMAICAN STORM (18)** B Smart 4 9-2 ..... P Mulrennan 78
9 (11) 17313-5 **FRONT GUNNER (12) (C&D)** S Hanlon 5 9-2 .. W Fentiman(5) 78
10 (5) 1221-43 **CONCERT BOY (12) (C&D)** K Scott 6 9-1 ..... J Hart 81
11 (9) 1

RORY URGES PAIR TO PAY

LIV Golf stars Jon Rahm and Tyrrell Hatton have been challenged by Rory McIlroy to prove their love of the Ryder Cup by paying fines to remain eligible for Team Europe.

The Spaniard and the Englishman are locked in a legal battle with the DP World Tour over sanctions for playing without permission on the Saudi-backed tour.

LIV Golf paid any fines for their stars until January 1 this year but this season the players will have to pay. Rahm, who agreed an estimated FROM **NEIL McLEMAN** **$400million deal when he joined in December 2023, has refused to pay the potential $3m in fines on a point of principle.**

Fines can be up to $100,000 per event – and the bill will grow when the new LIV season starts.

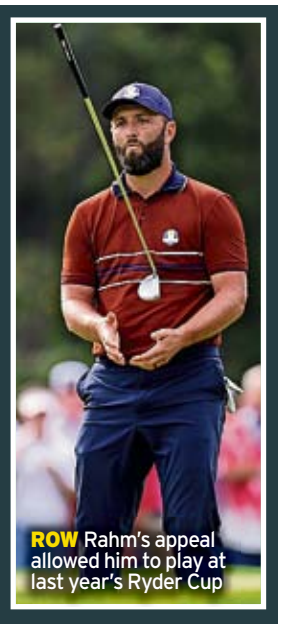
Europe made a rallying cry of not being paid at Bethpage Black last year while the Americans were each given $500,000, including a "stipend" of $200,000.

And Brooks Koepka agreed to give up the final year on his $15m-a-year LIV Golf contract and pay $5m to charity to return to the PGA Tour.

When asked if it would be easier if Rahm and Hatton just paid the fines, McIlroy said: "Yeah, absolutely. We went really hard on the Americans about being paid to play the Ryder Cup, and we also said that we would pay to play in Ryder Cups.

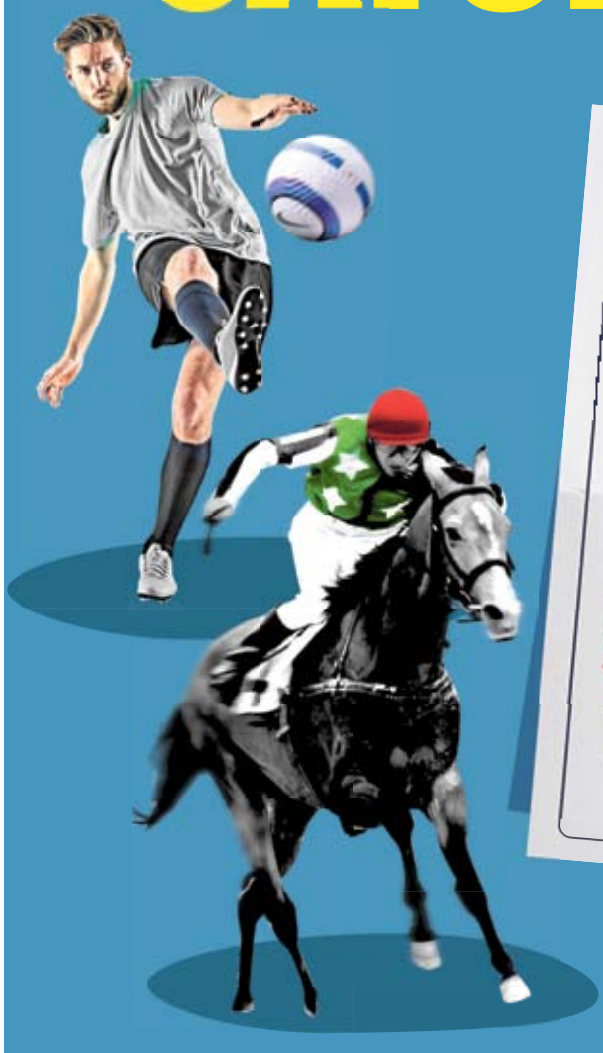
"There's two guys that can prove it. Great."

Hatton said: "It's still with legal teams. I don't really know what's happening. I'm just here to play golf."



ROW Rahm's appeal allowed him to play at last year's Ryder Cup

INSIDE SATURDAY



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FAIRWAY TO GO
McIlroy has been quick to set new goals after sealing Grand Slam

I'M NOT DONE YET

McIlroy has a renewed glory drive

FROM **NEIL MCLEMAN** IN DUBAI

RORY McILROY has mapped out his ambitions for the rest of his career after completing the career Grand Slam last year.

The Northern Irishman became only the sixth man – and the first European – to win all four Majors when he triumphed at The Masters last April.

He also claimed the Irish Open in a dramatic play-off, helped Europe to an away Ryder Cup win and lifted the BBC Sports Personality of the Year trophy.

But despite a spectacular 2025 season, his thirst for success has not taken long to return.

Ahead of teeing up today in the Hero Dubai Desert Classic – the first Rolex Series event of 2026 – McIlroy, 36, was asked what he still wants to achieve.

"Olympic medal, Open at St Andrews," the five-time Major winner said. "A US Open at one of those old, traditional golf courses, whether it's Shinnecock this year or Winged Foot or Pebble Beach, Merion.

"I would have told you two years ago, if I won The Masters, it would have been great and I could have retired or whatever. But when you keep doing things, the goalposts keep moving, and you just keep finding new things that you want to do.

"I'm sure if I were to achieve those things, which I hope that I do, I'd probably give you more stuff in four years' time. When you're a competitive person, that's just the way you're wired."

McIlroy, who finished tied third at the Dubai Invitational last week, is aiming to play fewer events this year to keep focused on the big ones.

He will play his first tournament on the PGA Tour at the AT&T Pebble Beach Pro-Am next month.

"I need to show up at tournaments with enthusiasm every single time," he said. "So playing in the places that I want to play. Not feeling like I'm at a tournament because I'm obligated but because I want to be there."

McIlroy, who made his debut in this event as a 16-year-old amateur in 2006, added: "I've been coming here for 20 years. You just think about the amount of balls that I've hit and the amount of time I've spent on the range on my own.

"That starts to get tedious 20 years into a career. So it's like trying to find the joy in that.

"What I really found joy in at home is playing golf. I definitely spend more time on the golf course than on the practice range nowadays, and that's something I've started to really enjoy.

"So for me, it's basically not making it feel like a job."

Asked what would make a good year in 2026, McIlroy said: "It's more the attitude that I bring every single week. I've always said the results will take care of themselves if you do the other things right, and this year my focus is just doing the other things right."

WE'VE BEEN RANK ROTTEN

Brook: Form must improve with World Cup spot on line

SRI LANKA v ENGLAND
First ODI: 9am start

FROM **SCOTT HUNT** in Colombo

HARRY BROOK admits England need to turn their ODI form around quickly to avoid the embarrassing prospect of missing out on automatic World Cup qualification.

England lost 11 of their 15 matches in the 50-over format across 2025 and a 3-0 defeat by New Zealand in October was a sixth defeat in their past seven series.

Brook's side face Sri Lanka in a three-match ODI series, followed by three T20s, starting in Colombo this morning. And the captain said: "We won't be taking these games lightly at all. We want to go out there and win and play our best cricket.

"We've got a big series coming up here against a strong side in their own conditions and it's good preparation before the T20 World Cup [next month].

"We just haven't been consistent enough and haven't performed to the best of our ability enough. We've probably struggled with the aggressiveness of the way we want to play. It's about capitalising on good starts."

The co-hosts of the 2027 World Cup, South Africa and Zimbabwe, qualify by right and will be joined by the eight top teams in the ODI rankings by the end of March 2027.

England sit eighth in the standings, one place below Afghanistan, with home ODI series to come this summer against India and Sri Lanka.

Brendon McCullum will lead the team into next month's T20 World Cup, despite his long-term future remaining in doubt after a 4-1 Ashes defeat littered with off-field controversies. But Brook said: "He's the best head coach I've had by a million miles. He makes you feel like you can go out there and do anything, he gives you the freedom to do anything."

England have selected their Test openers, Zak Crawley and Ben Duckett, at the top of the order for the first ODI against Sri Lanka. Duckett failed to make 50 across 10 innings in the Ashes, while Crawley scored two half centuries in a mixed tour.

"We've seen how good Ducky and Creeps can be up at the top in Test cricket," Brook added.

"We know they're a dominant duo – the height difference, the left-right hand difference is something we like at the top there.

"They get the best out of each other."

PRIZE FIGHTERS
Brook (far right) with Sri Lanka captain Charith Asalanka and Series trophy

THE LINE-UP
England team to face Sri Lanka in Colombo:

- Zak Crawley
- Ben Duckett
- Joe Root
- Jacob Bethell
- Harry Brook (capt)
- Jos Buttler
- Will Jacks
- Sam Curran
- Jamie Overton
- Liam Dawson
- Adil Rashid

ASHES REVIEW
ECB chief Gould

'I HAVE GOT TO REGAIN TRUST'

FROM BACK PAGE

the front and showing the players how it should be.

"I want to say sorry to my team-mates, to all the fans that travel far and wide and spend a lot of money to watch us play."

Brook informed the ECB during that ODI in Wellington and admitted he feared he would be sacked as captain.

"I told them mid-game. [Resigning] never came into my mind," Brook said.

"I left that decision to the hierarchy and look, if they'd have sacked me from being captain, then I'd have been perfectly fine with it as long as I was still playing for England."

Brook's incident occurred before a number of controversial moments during the 4-1 Ashes defeat, with England facing questions around their preparation and an alleged "drinking culture" – after a mid-series trip to Noosa where players were pictured drinking in bars.

But Brook said: "I don't think there's a drinking culture at all. We're all old enough and grown up enough to be able to say no if we don't want to drink. We weren't just going out and getting leathered every day. We were playing plenty of golf, going to nice cafes, having coffees, but we had a few drinks here and there."

ECB chief executive Richard Gould is conducting a formal review of the Ashes tour, including a focus on "behaviour". There are signs of change already, with the team and the ECB agreeing on a number of restrictions, including a midnight curfew, while in the sub-continent.

Brook, who will lead the six-match tour of Sri Lanka before their T20 World Cup campaign begins in Mumbai on February 8, conceded he needs to regain his standing within the squad.

"I've got a little bit of work to do to try and regain the trust of the players," he added. "I felt like I needed to say sorry [to the players] for my actions. As a captain it's really not acceptable to do what I did."

WORLD OF SPORT

George bids to bow out on high in 2027

RUGBY UNION

BY **ADAM HATHAWAY**

JAMIE George is aiming to go out with a bang at next year's World Cup, then hang up his boots.

The 35-year-old has confirmed his latest one-season deal with Saracens will be his last.

But it is understood the hooker is determined to carry on with Test rugby until Australia 2027.

The former England captain has unfinished business with the tournament after earning a silver medal in 2019 and bronze in 2023.

The three-time Lions tourist has 105 England caps and won six Premiership and three Champions Cup titles with his boyhood club Saracens.

GEORGE

"It means a lot to me that I will be retiring a one-club man," George said. "I'm sure it seems early to be announcing this with another season to go, but I want to make sure I soak up every moment."

THE BIG PICTURE

GATE CRASHER
Mikaela Shiffrin in the Giant Slalom in the World Cup at Kronplatz, Italy

Tribute to Gifford

CRICKET

WORCESTERSHIRE have paid tribute to former captain and England spinner Norman Gifford, who has died aged 85.

Gifford won the County Championship three times with the Pears, including back-to-back in 1964 and 1965. He played 15 Tests for England, as well as two ODIs, when he captained the team.

The left-arm spinner Gifford took 1,615 first-class wickets for Worcestershire before he represented Warwickshire for five years from 1983.

Gifford, who had a five-year spell as head coach at Durham, later served as club president at New Road.

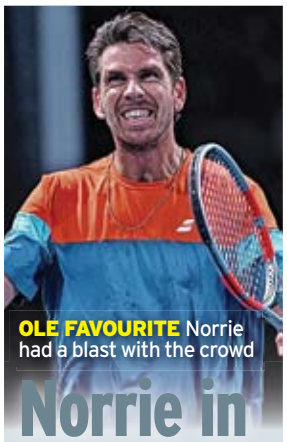
"Everyone at Worcestershire County Cricket Club would like to offer their sincere condolences to the family, who are all in our thoughts," a club statement read.

10 to tackle

1. Which Thai driver won the feature race in the final round of the 2025 FIA Formula 3 Championship in Monza?
2. Who did Belinda Bencic beat in the 2020 Olympics women's singles tennis gold medal match?
3. Which was the first all-Premier League 2025-2026 FA Cup third-round tie announced in the live draw?
4. Against which country did the Scotland rugby union centre Alan Tait make his 1987 Test debut?
5. Which brothers scored centuries for Australia against England in the 2001 Oval Test?
6. Which American golfer won the US Open at Oakmont in 1983?
7. Which Irish cyclist won the Vuelta a Espana in 1988?
8. Which American was Olympic heavyweight boxing gold medallist in 1964?
9. Which American middle-distance runner fell in the 1984 Olympic 3,000m after tangling with Zola Budd?
10. Who rode Santa Claus to victory in the 1964 Derby?

RATINGS
0-3 Oh dear
4-6 Small beer
7-9 So near
10 Sporting Seer

ANSWERS: 1 Tasanapol 'Tern' Inthraphuvasak. 2 Marketa Vondrousova. 3 Tottenham Hotspur vs Aston Villa. 4 France. 5 Steve and Mark Waugh. 6 Larry Nelson. 7 Sean Kelly. 8 Joe Frazier. 9 Mary Decker. 10 Scobie



OLE FAVOURITE Norrie had a blast with the crowd

Norrie in shout out to fans

FROM **YASMIN SYED**

CAMERON NORRIE is the last Brit standing at the Australian Open after bouncing back from a rain delay to beat Emilio Nava in four sets.

The British No.2 had the fans firmly on his side on Court 7, screaming "Allez" and fistpumping at some spectators to get himself going.

Norrie led 4-3 with a mini-break in the fourth set tiebreak when the heavens opened, and was forced off the court for around an hour.

But he returned, winning three of the next five points to see off the American 6-1 7-6 4-6 7-6, prompting chants of "Ole Norrie" from the stands.

The 30-year-old said: "Those matches are the best. That court was so much fun, and everyone was enjoying themselves.

"Actually, there was so much support for me that you have to give a lot of credit to Emilio to really fight back.

"Some of the chants were really, really good. I was laughing. I'd say the best atmosphere at the Australian Open. Maybe top three of my career."

Norrie now faces third seed and last year's runner-up Alexander Zverev. The German beat Norrie in a fifth-set tiebreak here two years ago, and the No.26 seed is ready for a rematch.

"I think he loves playing me," Norrie added. "Every time we play, we have such high-level matches. I can trouble him, for sure."

It was not to be for British No.7 Arthur Fery, who came through qualifying and beat No.20 seed Flavio Cobolli to reach the second round.

His run was ended by Tomas Etcheverry, who beat him 7-6 6-1 6-3.

The world No.186 said: "Obviously tough to see it right now, but proud of what I've accomplished in the past two weeks. It's probably my best result in my career so far."

SECONDS OUT... Raducanu served for the first set but crumbled to defeat in Australia

IDENTITY CRISIS

Early Melbourne exit prompts Raducanu to shake up her approach by rolling back the years

FROM **YASMIN SYED** in Melbourne

EMMA RADUCANU admits she must rediscover her "identity" on the tennis court after crashing out in the second round of the Australian Open.

The No.28 seed, who had been hoping to set up another clash with world No.1 Aryna Sabalenka in round three, served for the first set but suffered a 7-6 6-2 defeat by Russian-turned-Austrian Anastasia Potapova.

Raducanu's pre-season was derailed by a foot injury, and she did not practice any points until arriving Down Under in early January. Even so, she had spoken positively about the work she is doing with coach Francisco Roig, who she hired last summer.

But speaking after her Melbourne exit, the 23-year-old admitted she wants to make some major changes to her approach to the game.

"I'm going to take a few days, get back, get back home, and try and just re-evaluate my game a bit. Just reassess the aspects of my game," said Raducanu.

"I want to be playing a different way, and I think the misalignment with how I'm playing right now and how I want to be playing is something that I just want to work on.

"There are definitely pockets of me playing how I want to play, and it comes out in flashes, which is a positive, and maybe more than certain times in my career in the last few years. But it's not how I want to be consistently every day. So it's not going to fall into place straight away, but the more I work on how I want to be playing, it will be more of my identity every time I step onto the court.

"I need to work at that, but it's not going to happen overnight."

Raducanu won the 2021 US Open as a qualifier aged just 18, and wants to return to the game style she had when she was younger.

I need to work on playing more similarly to when I was younger. I took the ball early and went for it

She added: "I just want to hit the ball to the corners and hard. I feel like I'm doing all this variety, and it's not doing what I want it to do.

"I need to just work on playing in a way more similar to how I was playing when I was younger. I always just changed direction, took the ball early, and went for it.

"I do have the ability to do many things on the court, but I feel like as I'm learning all those skills, it's like I need to stick to my guns a bit as well and work on that." While both players struggled with the windy conditions initially, Potapova, ranked 55, settled towards the end of the first set, fighting back from 5-3 down.

Raducanu made a host of errors, particularly off the forehand, and looked despondent during a second set that quickly got away from her.

Reflecting on an underwhelming three weeks Down Under, which brought just two wins from five matches, Raducanu said: "I don't want to give myself too much of a hard time, because I know my preparation going into this tournament.

"I kind of have to leave with my head held high because of the matches I've had here. I didn't even know at the beginning if I would be coming to Australia, so it's a positive in that sense.

"If you would have told me I would have played five matches in Australia regardless of how they went, I think from a physical perspective, it would have been pretty surprising.

"I just need to take it for what it is, be pragmatic, and go back and keep working. The season is still quite long so, hopefully, if I stay healthy, do the right things, then it will start falling into place."

LESSON Raducanu is planning to change her style with coach Roig

CARLOS IS TEED OFF AT ROGER

FROM **YASMIN SYED**

CARLOS ALCARAZ'S bid to become the youngest man to complete a career Grand Slam remains on track after the Spanish superstar beat Yannick Hanfmann 7-6 6-3 6-2.

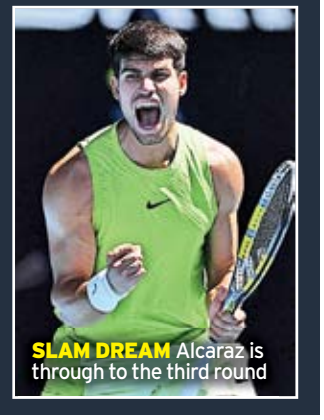
The world No.1 fell a break down to the German in an opening set that lasted 78 minutes before stepping on the gas.

"I knew he was going to play great, I knew his level," said Alcaraz. "We came through Challengers together.

"The ball was coming as a bomb – forehand, backhand, serves. So I had to be ready for those. Really happy that I got through a difficult first set." Alcaraz, 22, is now planning to head back out on the golf course with tennis legend Roger Federer before a potentially tricky third-round tie against talented Frenchman Corentin Moutet.

"I think he [Federer] has been playing for two years now, and his level is really, really good for two years," said Alcaraz. "I've been playing five, and he already beats me! So it hurts."

Two-time Australian Open women's champion Aryna Sabalenka beat Zhuoxuan Bai 6-3 6-1, while Coco Gauff advanced with a 6-2 6-2 win over Olga Danilovic.



SLAM DREAM Alcaraz is through to the third round

FENERBAHCE v ASTON VILLA
Europa League: League Stage, KO 5.45pm, TNT Sports 1

Emery hit by no-shows for his 100th Europa tie

BY **JOHN TOWNLEY**

UNAI EMERY admitted John McGinn could be sidelined for "some weeks" as Aston Villa's captain joins a host of players absent for tonight's Europa League clash with Fenerbahce.

McGinn was forced off in the 18th minute against Everton on Sunday and Villa are sweating over further tests, with fellow midfielder Boubacar Kamara already likely to miss the rest of the campaign due to a knee injury. "We are still waiting because he [McGinn] is still visiting some doctors to have a decision what to do," said Villa boss Emery.

"It could be some weeks. It depends on the doctor and for him, how he feels."

The injuries add to a growing list on the medical table at Villa Park alongside Amadou Onana, Emi Martinez and Ross Barkley, who will also be missing for the trip to Turkey.

Villa face Fenerbahce in search of their sixth league phase victory this season, which could take them a step closer to qualifying in the top eight and without the need for a play-off match.

But Emery (below) knows the trip to Turkey will be difficult in what will be his 100th Europa League match.

He added: "It's a very difficult match and they have a very good team, historic and experienced team with good players. They have a fantastic atmosphere with the supporters. We respect them a lot.

"They have 11 points, for them it's very important, the match.

"We have the advantage to get top eight, but if they win, they also have possibilities to be in (the) top eight.

"I remember when we played here in 2012 (with Spartak Moscow), and how we suffered here.

"Fenerbahce is (a) very recognised team in Europe, always playing in Champions League, in Europa League.

"They are clearly candidates to be at the end in this competition."

Fenerbahce have two familiar faces in the ranks who used to be at Villa not so long ago in the form of Marco Asensio and Jhon Duran.

Asensio has been in fine form this campaign, having scored eight times and providing six assists in the league, while Duran left Villa around a year ago.

Emery knows the qualities of both, adding: "They are fantastic players.

"Asensio, with his career being amazing and a lot of experiences, and of course, with us, he performed very well last year.

"And Jhon Duran, we saw him last year performing very well with us, to Saudi and then Fenerbahce signed him.

"We respect them a lot and to stop them is not easy."

FENERBAHCE (4-3-3): Ederson; Semedo, Skriniar, Oosterwolde, Muldur; Fred, Yuksek, Talisca; Asensio, Duran, Akturkoglu.
ASTON VILLA (4-2-3-1): Bizot; Lindelof, Konsa, Mings, Digne; Bogarde, Tielemans; Guessand, Rogers, Sancho; Watkins.
Referee: Luis Godinho (Portugal).

IT'S LIKE THAT McGinn explains his injury to the medical team last Sunday

GLOVES ARE OFF Emi Martinez is set for a spell on the sidelines

CHAMPIONSHIP ROUND-UP

POINTS SEALED Tommy Conway marks his winner

Hell of a tweak is needed by Boro

BY **DARREN WELLS**

KIM HELLBERG'S half-time changes had the desired effect as Middlesbrough came from behind to beat Stoke 2-1 and move back to second in the table.

A dreadful error-ridden first half saw Boro trailing at the break through Tomas Rigo's strike.

But with the Boro boss tweaking his system and making two substitutions at the interval, the visitors came from behind to win thanks to goals from Alan Browne and Tommy Conway.

Rigo put the hosts in front when his tame effort got the better of Sol Brynn in the Middlesbrough net.

Hellberg's half-time substitutions had an immediate impact.

Within three minutes of the restart, Boro were level when Browne produced a good finish from a tight angle.

Their turnaround was completed just before the hour mark.

Browne turned architect this time, producing a tantalising ball right across the six-yard box.

Conway arrived beyond the last defender and though he couldn't turn the ball goalwards with his initial touch, it set it for him to fire Boro to victory.

Southampton ended a seven-game winless run as they were 1-0 winners over Sheffield United.

Leo Scienza's early deflected strike inflicted the Blades' 15th defeat of the season.

Patrick Bamford had a late chance to level late on with Saints boss Tonda Eckert earning his first win of 2026.

Portsmouth climbed out of the relegation zone courtesy of a 1-1 draw at Watford.

Adrian Segecic put Pompey ahead with 17 minutes to go however Mamadou Doumbia equalised just five minutes later after Nicolas Schmid spilled a cross.

PRAYING FOR JESUS Sean Dyche hopes Igor is fit for action

Dyche has guard up in bid to land knockout blow

Braga v Nottingham Forest
EL: League Stage, 8pm, TNT Sports 1

BY **SARAH CLAPSON**

SEAN DYCHE is braced for a difficult test against one of Pep Guardiola's disciples in the Europa League tonight.

And the Nottingham Forest boss stressed that sealing automatic qualification for the knockout phases would be "complicated".

Forest sit 11th in the Europa League table, two points and four places below tonight's opponents Braga, who are coached by former Manchester City assistant manager Carlos Vicens.

Sixth-placed Ferencvaros are still to come to the City Ground next week in Forest's final group phase match. And Dyche admitted his side would be going all out to win in Portugal tonight to ensure they're not left with too much work to do.

"Braga are a very impressive team, and so is their coach, who worked with Pep Guardiola," said Dyche.

"We are prepared with our mentality and we are aiming to win. Ideally, we want to go through automatically, but it's complicated."

Forest are sweating on the fitness of striker Igor Jesus, who sustained a knock ahead of the trip to Portugal and did not train with his team-mates yesterday morning or fly out with the squad. The summer signing is currently Forest's only fit striker and Dyche refused to rule him out.

"He's got a bit of a knock," said Dyche. "He's not with us at the moment. We'll see how it settles down overnight."

BRAGA (3-4-3): Hornicek; Lagerbielke, Carvalho, Niakate; Dorgeles, Grillitsch, Moutinho, Lelo; Martinez, Victor, Horta.
NOTTINGHAM FOREST (4-2-3-1): Sels; Savona, Milenkovic, Morato, Williams; Luiz, Dominguez; Bakwa McAtee, Hudson-Odoi; Ndoye.
REFEREE: Igor Paja (Croatia).

DELIGHT Solanke celebrates his goal

SOLANKE: I'LL MAKE UP FOR LOST TIME

BY **ALASDAIR GOLD**

DOMINIC SOLANKE has set his sights on the World Cup and Champions League success after scoring on his first start in eight months.

The 28-year-old Tottenham striker had not been in a starting line-up since Spurs' final game of last season at home against Brighton.

An ankle problem has dogged him since and required a minor surgical procedure and injections until the pain finally began to subside.

Solanke returned to the starting line-up on Tuesday night and bagged the second goal of the 2-0 win against Borussia Dortmund.

And he admitted the past eight months have been an emotional rollercoaster with his ankle issues appearing to ease, only to return.

"It's been one of the hardest moments of my life," he said. "It has been quite complicated, really tough, but I'm just happy to be back now and hope to be fit for the rest of the season.

"It got to a point where I just didn't quite know when I was going to be back. It's nice to have that clarity and I didn't have that, so that was probably the hardest part."

Spurs have struggled for goals without him and Thomas Frank's side sit 14th in the Premier League.

"It's been on my mind the whole time I've been injured," he said. "We're in together every day and I come to watch the games.

"It's difficult when you don't have the chance to help and make an impact. That's one of the hardest parts of being injured."

Solanke has not been involved with England either but hopes he's returned at the perfect time to catch boss Thomas Tuchel's eye.

"The World Cup is what everyone wants to be involved in," said the striker, who has three caps for his country. "It's unfortunate I missed the first half of the season, but I just want to get back firing for Tottenham now.

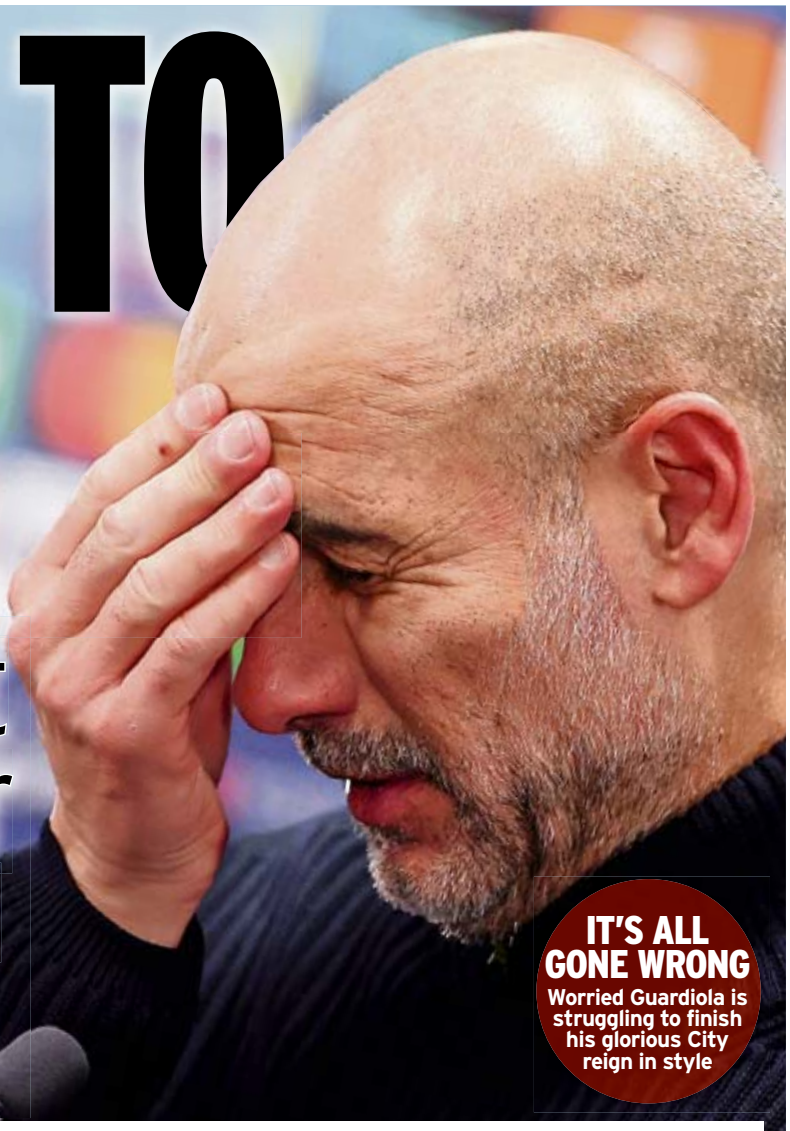
"Obviously, the World Cup is on my mind, so I'll be pushing for that, too."

Spurs (head coach Frank, inset) will head straight into the round of 16 if they win at Eintracht Frankfurt next week and Solanke added: "The Champions League is going to be very difficult to win, but last season [the Europa League] was difficult to win as well.

"We need to do better in the Premier League, too, so we need to put that right."

ETIBAD TO WORSE

Season of failure was not in script for Guardiola's big send-off



IT'S ALL GONE WRONG
Worried Guardiola is struggling to finish his glorious City reign in style

BY **JEREMY CROSS**

THE plan was for Pep Guardiola to go out in a blaze of glory.

To win another Premier League title and Champions League crown, to add the final gloss to his sparkling legacy at Manchester City before handing over the reins, despite having a year left on his deal.

Returning from the cold and darkness of the Arctic Circle with his tail between his legs was not supposed to precede him riding into the sunset.

But even those touched with greatness like Guardiola are not immune from failure.

Guardiola must feel like he's been hit by a snowplough.

In the space of less than a week, his team has been humiliated twice.

Not content with being embarrassed in the Manchester derby, City headed off to the Arctic Circle and suffered a complete meltdown.

It will be a night the minnows of Bodo/Glimt will never forget.

And it's safe to assume the same goes for Guardiola as well.

To put the Champions League defeat into perspective, City lost to a team based in a place with a population which is less than the capacity of the Etihad Stadium.

The feeling of humiliation is not one Guardiola is familiar with.

But make no mistake, this defeat represents the nadir of Guardiola's reign in the blue half of Manchester.

A result which sends shockwaves across the world of football.

A defeat which proves Guardiola has serious problems to fix if he is to avoid the unthinkable notion of going a second successive season without a major trophy.

From back to front, the former champions have glaring weaknesses. Despite injuries to certain individuals, there is no defence for City's defence. For the second time in four days, they conceded two or more goals and saw their opponents have two more disallowed.

The introduction of new signing Marc Guehi cannot come soon enough. Rodri (above, left) might have returned to the fold after injury, but he looks a shell of the midfielder who won the Ballon d'Or in 2024.

The Spaniard managed to get sent off for two bookings inside 60 seconds. He is off the pace, and personifies City's inability to control possession, or win it back.

In attack, Guardiola has the most lethal striker in world football, but due to the failings of those around him, Haaland is morphing into someone who is as threatening as a wet sponge.

The Norwegian has only scored once, from the penalty spot against Brighton, in his last eight games. He described this latest loss as "embarrassing".

These are not words he imagined having to utter about a team and club he committed the next decade of his career to. How Guardiola – and Haaland – must miss the influence of Kevin De Bruyne.

The Belgian's relationship with Haaland was telepathic at times.

Etihad bosses made the decision to cut ties with their greatest ever player last summer, but right now the gamble looks to have failed.

Someone like him can be impossible to replace but signing Tijjani Reijnders is a woeful attempt to fill the void.

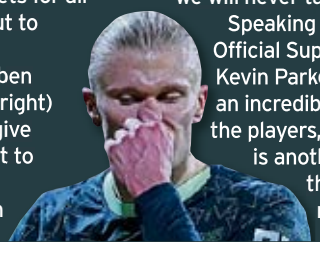
Guardiola reckons City need to change the dynamic. The obvious way to do this is to change the manager. This will never happen – so it's down to him to prove his genius and put right what is going wrong, before it's too late.

PAY-OUT FOR CITY FANS

BY **SIMON BAJKOWSKI**

MANCHESTER CITY'S captains have chipped in nearly £10,000 to cover the cost of tickets for all 374 fans who went out to watch them in Bodo.

Bernardo Silva, Ruben Dias, Erling Haaland (right) and Rodri agreed to give fans who travelled out to Norway their money back, a gesture worth £9,357. "Our supporters mean everything to us," they said. "We know the sacrifice they make and we will never take it for granted."



Speaking on behalf of the Official Supporters Club, Kevin Parker said: "We have an incredible connection with the players, and this gesture is another reminder of that relationship – it means a lot to us."

BOLD VIK Arsenal striker Gyokeres is delivering

ARTETA'S MIGHTY GUNNERS ARE THE BEST IN EUROPE

BY **JOHN CROSS**

MIKEL ARTETA has turned Arsenal into the best team in Europe.

The Gunners have swept all before them in the Champions League to win a club record seven consecutive games in the competition.

But it is more important for Arteta to win the Premier League title above any other trophy this season.

That, in my view, would put Arsenal on track for a period of domination in English football when so much more silverware will follow. All of this does sound remarkably arrogant and self-entitled for a club which has only won one FA Cup during Arteta's six-year reign.

But they have this wonderful opportunity because Arteta (inset) has built a terrific team that has already seen off the continent's big hitters.

Arsenal beat Inter Milan 3-1 on Tuesday night at the San Siro. They are the best team in Italy, top of Serie A. They also smashed Bayern Munich, the best team in Germany.

The Gunners won at Athletic Bilbao in September and Arteta should feel confident of beating the best Spain have to offer too.

They knocked out Real Madrid last year and that run to the semi-finals has clearly given them experience and knowledge for this year. Arsenal are so strong in defence because William Saliba and Gabriel are a real force at the back while David Raya is a superb keeper.

Declan Rice and Martin Zubimendi have been terrific in midfield while Bukayo Saka has shown time and again he is a big performer on the top stage.

Goals have been a problem. But Gabriel Jesus and even Viktor Gyokeres showed they can deliver against Inter Milan and Kai Havertz is coming back from injury. Arsenal are now the bookies' favourites to win the Champions League.

STROLL IN THE PARK

Toon top-8 boost

1-0
Wissa gets a hug from Gordon after scoring the first goal for rampant Newcastle

2-0

3-0

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

NEWCASTLE		PSV
54%	POSSESSION	46%
4	SHOTS ON TARGET	1
5	SHOTS OFF TARGET	4
512	TOTAL PASSES	442
3	CORNERS	1
1	OFFSIDES	1
4	FOULS	11
0	CARDS	0
2		3

REF: Daniel Siebert ATT: 52,076

LINE-UPS

NEWCASTLE (4-3-3): Pope; Trippier (Willock 87), Thiaw, Botman, Hall; Bruno Guimaraes (Miley 45), Tonali, Joelinton (Ramsey 72); Barnes, Wissa (Woltemade 72), Gordon (Elanga 72)

PSV (4-3-3): Kovar; Sildillia, Schouten, Gasiorowski, Salah-Eddine (Obispo 45); Wanner, Mauro Junior, Veerman; Man (Bajraktarevic 62), Til (Flamingo 73), Perisic (Driouech 62)

MAN OF THE MATCH
JOELINTON

NEWCASTLE	**3**
Wissa 8, Gordon 30, Barnes 65	
PSV	**0**

BY **LEE RYDER**

NEWCASTLE clinched a Champions League play-off place with a 3-0 pounding of PSV at St James' Park – but will now have their sights set firmly on automatic qualification.

Goals from front three, Yoane Wissa, Anthony Gordon and Harvey Barnes, confirmed at least a top-24 spot.

But with their final group game against holders Paris Saint-Germain to come next week, Eddie Howe's men have a top-eight finish in their grasp.

It was ultimately a comfortable win against PSV, with their opponents certainly going Dutch on the night as they gifted the Magpies two first-half goals.

The Eredivisie table-toppers went into the game unbeaten on their travels since March 1, and with memories of the impressive 4-1 win at Liverpool still fresh in their minds. Newcastle had an early sight of goal when Kieran Trippier clipped in a cross from the right, but Joelinton's header was poor before Anthony Gordon made a hash of the loose ball.

The Magpies set the tone early and went ahead on eight minutes. Matej Kovar's clearance fell straight to Bruno Guimaraes in the middle before he picked out Joelinton.

When Joelinton latched on to the ball, Wissa was in an offside position, but moved back onside, and the goal was deemed to be in the second phase of play.

Wissa may not have got the perfect connection on it, but it was good enough to lift the ball over Kovar and put Toon ahead.

The Magpies doubled their lead after half an hour to strengthen their grip on three crucial Champions League points.

PSV tried to play across their own penalty area and Yarek Gasiorowski lost the ball, before Wissa scooped it into the path of Gordon, who had the simple task of tapping into the empty net. Newcastle were dealt a blow when Guimaraes came off before the break after an awkward fall when challenging with the keeper, and was replaced by Lewis Miley.

PSV ended the opening 45 minutes with their first shot on target as Paul Wanner curled one at Nick Pope, but he was equal to it.

Eddie Howe's team were good value for their lead after controlling the first half and taking their chances.

The second half started at a much slower pace as PSV tried to plot a way back into the contest. Harvey Barnes had struggled to make a big impact on the game up to the hour mark – but that would soon change.

A long ball by keeper Pope bounced off the back of a defender's head and fell for Barnes.

The winger accelerated down the left and made no mistake with a powerful finish after a deft first touch to chop past the defender.

Howe made a host of substitutions when introducing Nick Woltemade, Anthony Elanga and Jacob Ramsey for the last 18 minutes.

As Elanga grew into the game there was a touch of class for the out-of-form winger when the Gallowgate End chanted his name after Howe had called for the fans to show the £55million man "some love".

Elanga got free down the left and sent a shot over in the match's closing stages as Newcastle looked for more.

Howe's men already had more than enough though, and now move on to Paris next Wednesday.

RESULTS & FIXTURES

UEFA Champions League - League Stage

ATALANTA (1) 2	**ATH BILBAO (0) 3**
Scamacca 16	Guruzeta 58
Krstovic 88	Serrano 70
	Navarro 74
BYN MUNICH (0).... 2	**UNION SG (0) 0**
Kane 52, 55 (pen)	
CHELSEA (0) 1	**AE PAFOS (0) 0**
Caicedo 78	
GALATSARAY (1) 1	**AT MADRID (1) 1**
Llorente 20 (og)	Simeone 4
JUVENTUS (0) 2	**BENFICA (0) 0**
Thuram 55	
McKennie 64	
MARSEILLE (0) 0	**LIVERPOOL (1) 3**
	Szoboszlai 45
	Rulli 72 (og)
	Gakpo 90
NEWCASTLE (2) 3	**PSV (0) 0**
Wissa 8	
Gordon 30	
Barnes 65	
QARABAG FK (1) 3	**E FRANKFURT (1) . 2**
Duran 4, 80	Uzun 10
Mustafazade 90	Chaibi 78 (pen)
SLV PRAGUE (2) 2	**BARCELONA (2).... 4**
Kusej 10	Lopez 34, 42
Lewandowski 44 (og)	Olmo 63
	Lewandowski 70

Sky Bet Championship

SOUTHMPTN (1) 1	**SHEFF UTD (0) 0**
Scienza 7	
STOKE (1) 1	**MIDDLESBRO (0).. 2**
Rigo 15	Browne 48
	Conway 59
	Att: 20,992
WATFORD (0) 1	**PORTSMOUTH (0). 1**
Doumbia 79	Segecic 73
	Att: 17,577

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Coventry	28	17	7	4	61	31	58
Middlesbro	28	15	7	6	42	29	52
Ipswich	27	14	8	5	47	24	50
Hull	27	14	5	8	45	39	47
Millwall	28	13	7	8	32	35	46
Preston	28	11	10	7	36	29	43
Watford	27	11	9	7	38	32	42
Stoke	28	12	5	11	33	25	41
Wrexham	27	10	11	6	39	33	41
Derby	28	11	8	9	38	36	41
Bristol City	28	11	7	10	38	31	40
QPR	28	11	7	10	38	39	40
Birmingham	28	10	8	10	38	37	38
Leicester	28	10	8	10	39	41	38
Southampton	28	9	9	10	40	40	36
Swansea	28	10	6	12	31	35	36
Sheff Utd	27	10	2	15	36	40	32
Charlton	27	8	8	11	27	34	32
West Brom	28	9	4	15	31	43	31
Portsmouth	26	7	8	11	23	36	29
Blackburn	27	7	7	13	25	36	28
Norwich	27	7	6	14	33	39	27
Oxford Utd	27	5	9	13	25	35	24
Sheff Wed	27	1	8	18	18	54	-7

ENTERPRISE NATIONAL LEAGUE: Carlisle 0 York 3, FC Halifax 1 Morecambe 0, Forest Green 1 Altrincham 1, Solihull Moors 0 Rochdale 1, Wealdstone P Tamworth P.

TENNIS

AUSTRALIAN OPEN (Melbourne)— **Selected Men's Singles 2nd rnd:** (1) C Alcaraz (Spa) bt Y Hanfmann (Ger) 7-6 (7-4) 6-3 6-2, (10) A Bublik (Kaz) bt M Fucsovics (Hun) 7-5 6-4 7-5, T Martin Etcheverry (Arg) bt A Fery (Gbr) 7-6 (7-4) 6-1 6-3, (6) A De Minaur (Aus) bt H Medjedovic (Ser) 6-7 (5-7) 6-2 6-2 6-1, (3) A Zverev (Ger) bt A Muller (Fra) 6-3 4-6 6-3 6-4, (26) C Norrie (Gbr) bt E Nava (USA) 6-1 7-6 (7-3) 4-6 7-6 (7-5), (11) D Medvedev (Rus) bt Q Halys (Fra) 6-7 (9-11) 6-3 6-4 6-2. **Women's Singles 2nd rnd:** (1) A Sabalenka (Blr) bt Z Bai (Chi) 6-3 6-1, A Potapova (Aut) bt (28) E Raducanu (Gbr) 7-6 (7-3) 6-2, 7) J Paolini (Ita) bt M Frech (Pol) 6-2 6-3, (3) C Gauff (USA) bt O Danilovic (Ser) 6-2 6-2, (12) E Svitolina (Ukr) bt L Klimovicova (Cze) 7-5 6-1, (8) M Andreeva (Rus) bt M Sakkari (Gre) 6-0 6-4. **Selected Men's Doubles 1st rnd:** (1) J Cash (Gbr) & L Glasspool (Gbr) bt A Behar (Uru) & J Vliegen (Bel) 7-6 (7-2) 6-4, (6) C Harrison (USA) & K Skupski (Gbr) bt J Schnaitter (Ger) & M Wallner (Ger) 4-6 6-4 6-3.

TODAY'S DIARY

UEFA Europa League — League Stage: Bologna v Celtic (5.45) (Live on TNT Sports 2), Brann v Midtjylland (5.45), Fenerbahce v Aston Villa (5.45) (Live on TNT Sports 1), Feyenoord v Sturm Graz (5.45), Freiburg v Maccabi Tel-Aviv (5.45), Malmo v Red Star Belgrade (5.45), PAOK v Real Betis (5.45) (Live on TNT Sports 3), Plzen v Porto (5.45), Young Boys v Lyon (5.45), Roma v Stuttgart (8pm) (Live on TNT Sports 3), Braga v Nottingham Forest (8pm) (Live on TNT Sports 1), Celta Vigo v Lille (8pm), Dinamo Zagreb v FCSB (8pm), Ferencvaros v Panathinaikos (8pm), Nice v Go Ahead Eagles (8pm), Rangers v Ludogorets (8pm) (Live on TNT Sports 2), Red Bull Salzburg v Basel (8pm), Utrecht v Genk (8pm).

Sky Bet League One: Lincoln City v Burton (8pm) (Live on Sky Sports Football).

CRICKET

First One Day International: Sri Lanka v England (Colombo, 9am).

GOLF

DP World Tour Hero Dubai Desert Classic (Emirates GC, Dubai, UAE).

MO GOAL
Caicedo heads in Chelsea winner

Late Caicedo strike points the Blues on the Paf to success

Chelsea 1
Pafos 0

BY **BOBBY VINCENT**

LIAM ROSENIOR'S Champions League debut was not as easy as he would have hoped.

But it'll be all to play for against Napoli next week after Chelsea edged to victory over Pafos.

Moises Caicedo was the hero for the Blues with his header 12 minutes from time proving the difference between the two sides.

Wesley Fofana flicked the ball on from a corner and Caicedo was able to guide his header into the bottom corner.

Rosenior, who was making his Champions League managerial debut, made six changes to his Chelsea side after the weekend's win over Brentford.

The most notable bit of team news was Cole Palmer being left out of the squad.

After completing 90 minutes on Saturday, Palmer felt "a little tightness" in his thigh and missed out last night as a precaution, though Rosenior is hopeful he will return for Sunday's trip to Crystal Palace.

It was a slow start to the game for both teams, with Reece James having the first half-chance, but the Chelsea captain's strike from the edge of the box was just wide.

Enzo Fernandez thought he gave the Blues the lead with a header into the bottom corner but the Argentine was adjudged to have pushed Ken Sema in the back. The best chance of the first half fell to Pafos. Jaja's shot deflected off James and hit the post, with the visitors adamant they should have had a penalty for a handball from the Chelsea skipper, but the referee shook his head immediately.

Caicedo came close to giving Chelsea the lead 10 minutes before the break but was denied by a strong Jay Gorter save.

Jorrel Hato then had a chance at the end of the first half but it was well saved by Gorter again.

Alejandro Garnacho had a great chance to put Chelsea ahead in the second half after being played through by Wesley Fofana but Derrick Luckassen produced a crucial block.

Estevao, on as a substitute at half-time, had a couple of decent opportunities for the Blues but it was Caicedo who gave his team the advantage.

The Ecuadorian placed his header well after a big leap from Fofana to set him up.

Chelsea go into next week's deciding game in Naples inside the top eight on goal difference, with ninth-place Barcelona level on points.

CHELSEA (4-2-3-1): Jorgensen (Sanchez 46); Gusto, Fofana, Badiashile, Hato (Cucurella 70); James (Estevao 46), Caicedo; Neto, Fernandez, Garnacho (Gittens 70); Delap (Joao Pedro 70).
PAFOS (3-4-2-1): Gorter; Sema (Langa 83), Luckassen, Pileas; Bruno, Pepe, Sunjic, Jaja (Domingos Quina 65); Orsic (Bassouamina 83), Dragomir (Michael 89); Anderson (Dimata 65).
REF: Erik Lambrechts (Bel)

ABSZOLUTE GENIUS!

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

MARSEILLE		LIVERPOOL
58%	POSSESSION	42%
4	SHOTS ON TARGET	3
9	SHOTS OFF TARGET	6
570	TOTAL PASSES	413
7	CORNERS	4
3	OFFSIDES	3
8	FOULS	12
0 1	CARDS	0 0

REF: Slavko Vincic (Slovenia)

LINE-UPS

MARSEILLE (4-4-2): Rulli; Murillo, Pavard, Balerdi, Medina; Weah, Hojbjerg, Kondogbia (Nadir 68), Traore (Igor Paixao 68); Gouiri (Aubameyang 67), Greenwood.
LIVERPOOL (4-3-3): Allison; Frimpong, Gomez, Van Dijk, Kerkez; Gravenberch, Mac Allister; Szoboszlai; Salah, Ekitike (Gakpo 79), Wirtz (Jones 79).

MAN OF THE MATCH
DOMINIK SZOBOSZLAI

MARSEILLE 0
LIVERPOOL 3
Szoboszlai 45, Rulli 73 (og), Gakpo 90

Dominik's deadly daisy-cutter gives Slot's side some breathing space

BY **PAUL GORST**

VICTORY over Qarabag next week will secure Liverpool's passage to the knockout stages of the Champions League after a comfortable win over Marseille in France.

Goals from Dominik Szoboszlai, Jeremie Frimpong and Cody Gakpo late on settled the game in favour of the visitors as an embattled Arne Slot made it 13 games unbeaten since the end of November.

The Reds boss was facing questions over Xabi Alonso taking his job in Tuesday's press conference.

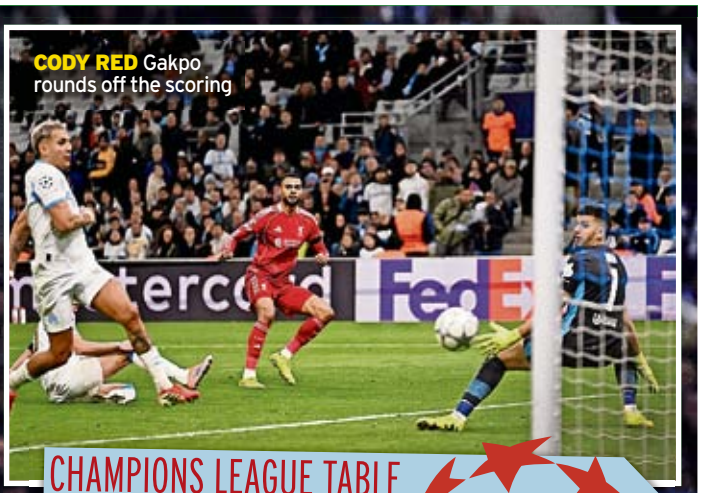
But this was a performance from his team that made a mockery of the suggestion the Dutchman is nearing the end of the line at Anfield.

Performances and results – the Reds are without a league win in 2026 – have undoubtedly been below par.

But this was not a display from a group of players who are no longer playing for their head coach as the Premier League champions defended resolutely to secure Slot a second successive European victory on the road after last month's 1-0 win at Inter Milan.

Liverpool thought that they had the lead before the half-hour

PING-PONG IN THE BOX Frimpong cross is deflected in for No.2 off Rulli



CODY RED Gakpo rounds off the scoring

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE TABLE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Arsenal	7	7	0	0	20	2	21
Bayern Munich	7	6	0	1	20	7	18
Real Madrid	7	5	0	2	19	8	15
Liverpool	7	5	0	2	14	8	15
Tottenham	7	4	2	1	15	7	14
PSG	7	4	1	2	20	10	13
Newcastle	7	4	1	2	16	6	13
Chelsea	7	4	1	2	14	8	13
Barcelona	7	4	1	2	18	13	13
Sporting	7	4	1	2	14	9	13
Man City	7	4	1	2	13	9	13
Atletico Madrid	7	4	1	2	16	13	13
Atalanta	7	4	1	2	10	9	13
Inter Milan	7	4	0	3	13	7	12
Juventus	7	3	3	1	14	10	12
B Dortmund	7	3	2	2	19	15	11
Galatasaray	7	3	1	3	9	9	10
Qarabag FK	7	3	1	3	13	15	10
Marseille	7	3	0	4	11	11	9
Bayer Leverkusen	7	2	3	2	10	14	9
Monaco	7	2	3	2	8	14	9
PSV	7	2	2	3	15	14	8
Athletic Bilbao	7	2	2	3	7	11	8
Olympiakos	7	2	2	3	8	13	8
Napoli	7	2	2	3	7	12	8
Copenhagen	7	2	2	3	11	17	8
Club Brugge	7	2	1	4	12	17	7
Bodo/Glimt	7	1	3	3	12	14	6
Benfica	7	2	0	5	6	10	6
AE Pafos	7	1	3	3	4	10	6
Union St Gilloise	7	2	0	5	7	17	6
Ajax	7	2	0	5	7	19	6
E Frankfurt	7	1	1	5	10	19	4
Slavia Prague	7	0	3	4	4	15	3
Villarreal	7	0	1	6	5	15	1
FC Kairat	7	0	1	6	5	19	1

YOU SZLAI OLD FOX Dominik Szoboszlai puts Liverpool ahead with a sneaky free-kick under the wall

mark via Hugo Ekitike's 13th goal of the campaign.

But the France international striker had strayed offside just before the tireless Szoboszlai had supplied the low ball into the area.

Mo Salah, on his first Liverpool start since November, ruffled the roof of the net with an inventive finish towards the end of the first period.

But having earlier been denied an assist, Szoboszlai stepped up for a free-kick at the end of the opening 45 minutes.

And fired it low under the wall, impudently giving the visitors the lead in the process.

Szoboszlai, who is in talks over a new Liverpool contract, has designs on eventually becoming club captain.

And it was the sort of vital intervention that skippers at Anfield have long prided themselves on.

Mason Greenwood went close with a long-range effort for the home side that Alisson was equal to after the restart.

But Liverpool should have doubled their advantage when Ekitike rattled the post after more good work from the imperious Szoboszlai.

Slot's men defended as a unit all evening.

But they also carried more than enough threat in possession and Milos Kerkez's driving run created space for Florian Wirtz to almost make it 2-0 near the hour mark.

The Germany international, though, was thwarted by Geronimo Rulli in the Marseille goal.

Salah (inset) should have marked his return following his AFCON adventure with a goal when he nodded wide of goal from Ekitike's cross.

But Slot's men would not be denied a deserved second to give them some vital breathing space, with Frimpong's ball across the face of goal eventually sneaking into the far corner.

Gakpo, who was introduced alongside Curtis Jones, settled it with the final kick of the game as the Reds moved into the top four of the revamped Champions League table.

ARNE TWIST Slot barks

Utd cash crash to hit Carr

BY **JEREMY CROSS**

MANCHESTER UNITED have fallen to their lowest ever position in the league table of club revenue.

The news could prove to be a blow to interim manager Michael Carrick, in terms of being able to make top-class signings.

Liverpool have become the highest-earning English club for the first time, as United slumped to eighth in the 2026 Deloitte Football Money League.

United's broadcast revenue fell almost £50m to £179.4m due to the lack of Champions League football. They are also set to generate less match-day revenue this season due to not being in Europe at all.

Tim Bridge, Sports Business Group Leader at Deloitte, said: "If you went back 10 or 15 years, and you looked at Manchester United's match-day revenue, it was the industry leader.

"Their ability to generate commercial revenue was the benchmark.

"I don't think that remains the case."

MOVE Jean-Philippe Mateta

Mateta's exit plan

BY **CAMERON WINSTANLEY**

JEAN-PHILIPPE MATETA has told Crystal Palace he wants to leave the club this month amid interest from Premier League and European clubs.

The France striker, 28, is in the final 18 months of his contract at Selhurst Park and has shown no intention of signing a new deal.

It has been a turbulent month for Palace, with captain Marc Guehi joining Manchester City and manager Oliver Glasner revealing he will step down at the end of the season.

Mateta has received interest from Juventus and Aston Villa, but the Eagles are yet to receive a bid matching their asking price, understood to be £40m.

The South London club are thought to be after a straight transfer and are not open to a loan deal.

DX1ST

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SORRY BROOK FEARED SACK

NZ incident a 'terrible mistake'

HARRY BROOK accepts he is lucky to still be England's white-ball captain after admitting he made a "terrible mistake" by getting "clocked" by a nightclub bouncer.

The 26-year-old was fined and warned about his future

FROM **SCOTT HUNT** in Colombo

conduct by the ECB after the incident in October, the night before an ODI in New Zealand – which acted as a warm-up for the troubled Ashes series in Australia.

Brook (left), who was made skipper last April and promoted to vice-captain of the Test team in September, said: "I made a terrible mistake, not only as a player, but as a captain.

"It's very unprofessional and I should be leading from

TURN TO PAGE 53, COL 2

MARSEILLE 0 3 LIVERPOOL

CUNNING STRIKE
Szoboszlai opened the scoring with a free-kick which was fired under the Marseille wall

LIVERPOOL put one foot in the Champions League knockout stages with a convincing 3-0 win at Marseille on Mo Salah's return.

Salah (below) made his first appearance for the Reds since returning from Africa Cup of Nations duty – and his first start since his explosive post-match outburst at Leeds last month.

But Dominik Szoboszlai pulled rank over the Egyptian to sneak a cheeky free-kick under the Marseille wall on the stroke of half-time. The impressive Jeremie Frimpong then saw

BY **DARREN WELLS**

his cross was deflected in for an own goal by goalkeeper Geronimo Rulli after a spell of pressure from the home side.

And a great night for Arne Slot's men was capped off by Cody Gakpo adding a late third goal.

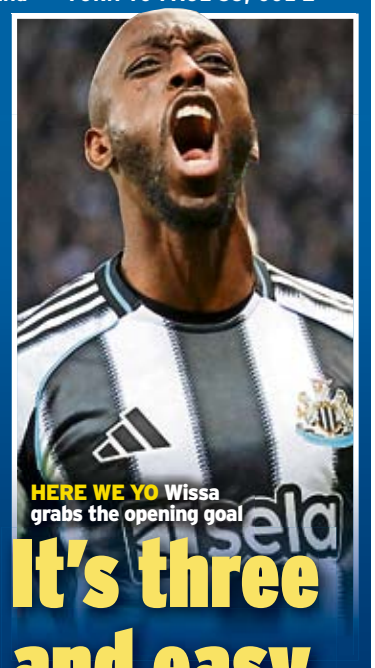
It lifted the Reds into fourth place ahead of their final league phase match, at home to Qarabag next Wednesday.

Skipper Virgil van Dijk said: "Overall I think the performance was very good. It's something to build on. Everyone put a shift in."

MATCH REPORT: PAGES 58-59

Dom's cheeky free-kick puts Reds within reach of an automatic spot

SZOB WELL DONE



HERE WE YO Wissa grabs the opening goal

It's three and easy

NEWCASTLE 3
PSV 0

MATCH REPORT: PAGE 57

ONE WINNER Caicedo celebrates

Blues Cai and mighty

CHELSEA 1
PAFOS 0

MATCH REPORT: PAGE 58

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Puzzles

SUDOKU

Fill the grid so that every column, row, and 3x3 square includes all of the digits from one to nine. **Solutions tomorrow**

EASY

6		1		4		3		
	8			1	3			2
9			5		6		4	
		7			1		5	
8	9			6	7		2	3
	4		8			9		
	3		6		8		1	
2			3				9	7
		6		2		8		5

MEDIUM

5		9		1				6
	3			6				1
			5		9	2		
1		3	4	2				
8	2					6		3
				3	6	7		2
		6	9		4			
4					3		7	
	9			7		5		4

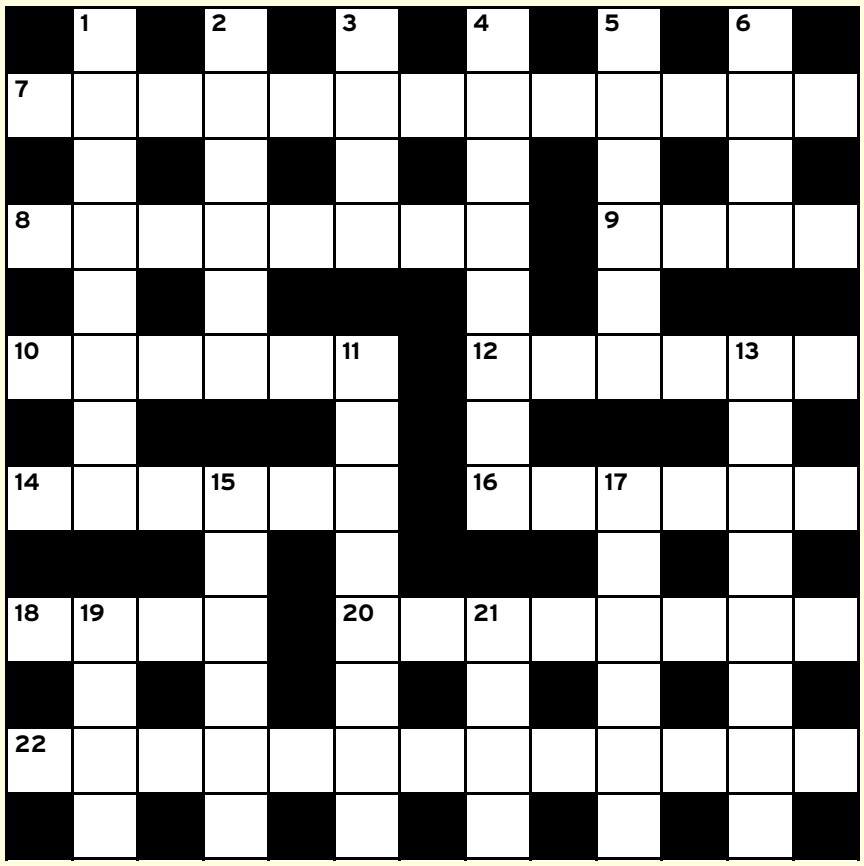
DIFFICULT

2		3			5			9
						8		
	4		8					6
7				6		9		
	3		5		1			
		6		2				1
8					4		2	
		1						
9			3		6	7		5

Extra clues: **0901 322 5609**
**Calls cost 75p plus your telephone company's network access charge.*

Today's solution: **0907 181 2573**
**Calls cost 80p per minute plus your telephone company's network access charge.*

QUICK CROSSWORD



ACROSS
7 Contemporary happenings (7,6)
8 Quell (8)
9 Delude (4)
10 Complied (6)
12 Detain (6)
14 Emergency (6)
16 Clothe (6)
18 A continent (4)
20 Entranced (8)
22 Orally (2,4,2,5)

DOWN
1 Salad plant (8)
2 Prize (6)
3 At one time (4)
4 Convince (8)
5 Offer (6)
6 Desist (4)
11 Comes down (8)
13 Sedateness (8)
15 Flavour (6)
17 Motive (6)
19 Inflamed eye-lid (4)
21 Secure (4)

Solution tomorrow

Stuck on the puzzle? Call **0905 789 4188** to hear individual clues or the full solution

Calls cost 80p per minute plus your telephone company's network access charge. Service provider Spoke Ltd - **Helpline 0333 202 3390*

CROSS DOUBT

Target times: Average: **20 mins** Good: **16 mins** Excellent: **12 mins**

Stuck? Call for a clue
0901 322 5601
Halve your Target Time!

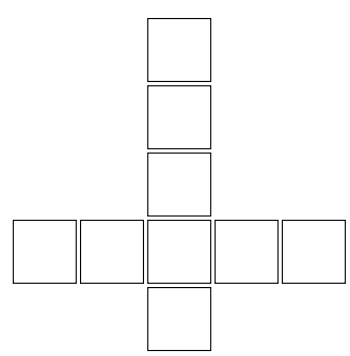
Today's solution
0901 322 5607
Both today's words in a moment!

**Calls cost 75p plus your telephone company's network access charge.*

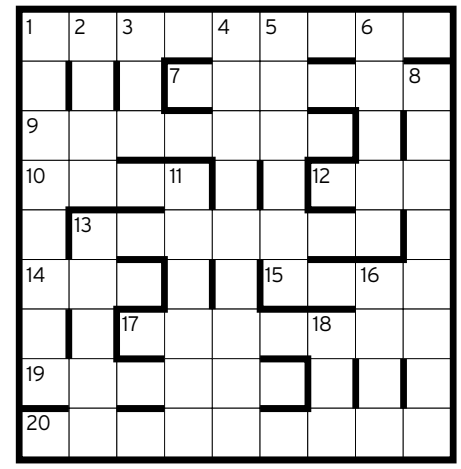
Can you make two common five-letter words from the nine letters given, using each letter only once? You can – but only if one letter features in both words in the squares on the right. There's at least one way to do it, and you have to have the right letter at the crossover – but which one is it?

See if you can find the answer within our target time. If you need help, ring our clue-line below to find out the crossover letter. Solution tomorrow

A F K L M N N O R



SMALL CROSSWORD



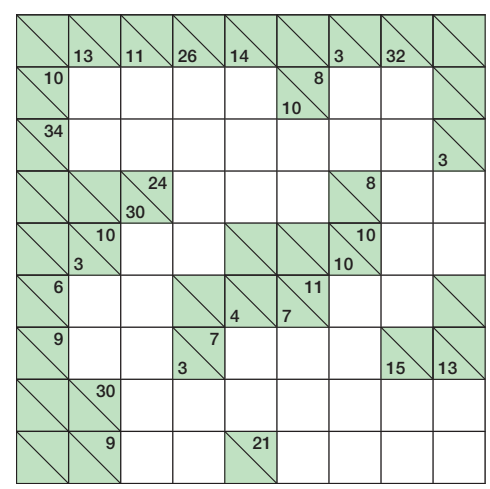
ACROSS
1 Owned (9)
7 Removes dirt (6)
9 Religious ceremony (7)
10 Snooty person (4)
12 _ Sanders, comedian (3)
13 Obviously (7)
14 Deity (3)
15 Idiotic (4)
17 TV station (7)
19 Freedom from danger (6)
20 Tend peers (anag.) (9)

DOWN
1 Corridors (8)
2 Kiln (4)
3 Male teacher's title (3)
4 Get rid of (9)
5 Unit of time (6)
6 Take pleasure from (5)
8 Tripped (8)
11 Hits hard (6)
13 Arctic or Antarctic (5)
16 Simple (4)
18 Almond, for example (3)

Solution tomorrow

For today's solution call:
0907 181 2582
**Calls cost 80p per minute plus your telephone company's network access charge.*

KAKURO



Fill each sequence of blank squares using the numbers 1-9. Each sequence – across and down – must total the number in the shaded box at the beginning or top of each line. A number may be repeated in each line but NOT in a sequence.

Solution tomorrow

Puzzles

QUIZWORD

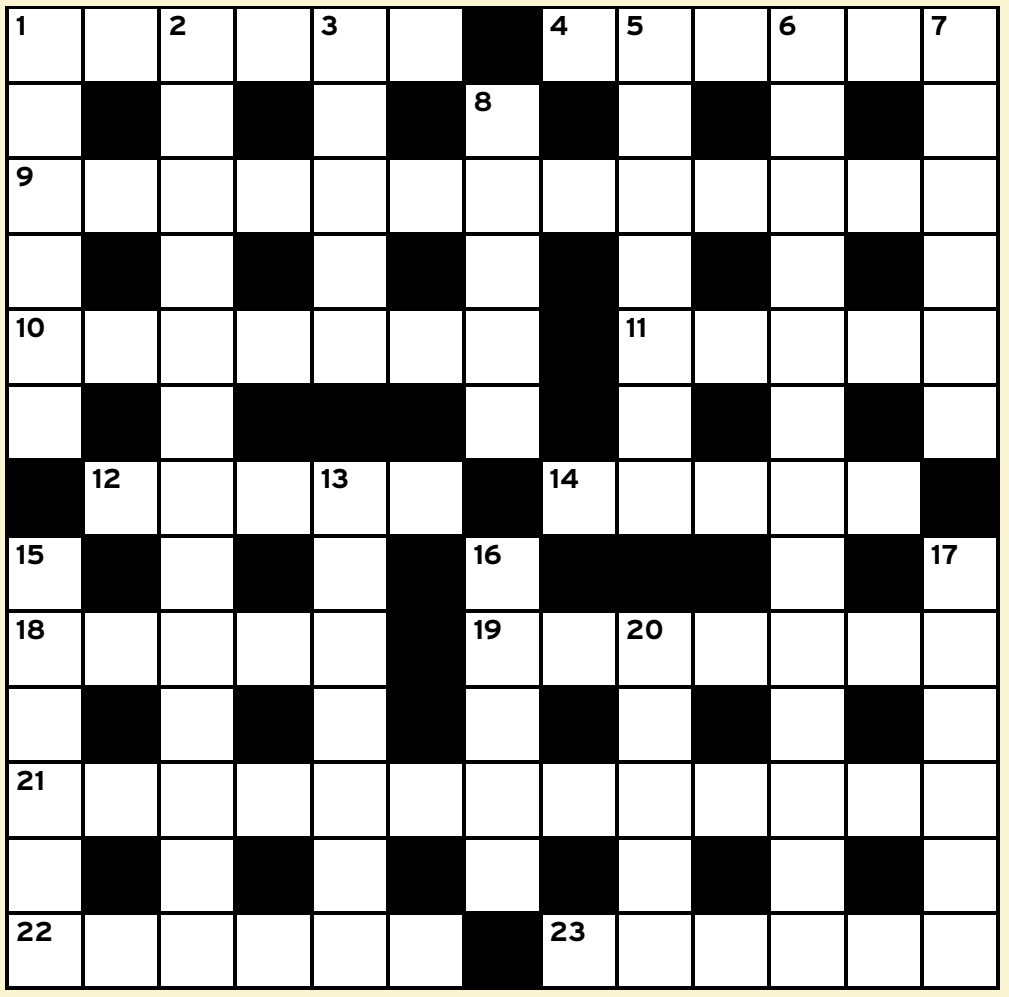
ACROSS

1 Jean, actress who played the title role in the film Lilith (6)
4 Henri, French composer of the 1875 symphonic poem Lénore (6)
9 French author killed in action during the First World War who wrote the novel Le Grand Meaulnes (5-8)
10 Frank, lyricist and composer of the musical Guys And Dolls (7)
11 One-act opera by Rachmaninov inspired by Pushkin's poem The Gypsies (5)
12 Hermann, author of the novel The Glass Bead Game (5)
14 Strong polymer made by the Du Pont firm in 1938 (5)
18 John, Denver Broncos quarterback who was MVP in Super Bowl XXXIII in 1999 (5)
19 European republic whose capital is Vienna (7)
21 The --- ---, comic opera by Bedrich Smetana featuring the character Marenka (8,5)
22 & 7 Down Barrister in Charles Dickens's novel A Tale Of Two Cities (6,6)
23 Eurasian plant such as Apium graveolens whose blanched leafstalks are used in salads (6)

DOWN

1 Ronald, cartoonist whose creations included the schoolgirls of St Trinian's (6)
2 1932 novel by Aldous Huxley (5,3,5)
3 Men's gymnastics event won by Liu Yang at the 2020 and 2024 Summer Olympics (5)
5 King Ethelred II of England was known as Ethelred the --- (7)
6 1875 novel by RD Blackmore (5,8)
7 See 22 Across
8 Archie ---, World Light Heavyweight boxing champion from 1952 to 1962 (5)
13 A flammable liquid hydrocarbon used in the manufacture of plastic (7)
15 Island off the north west coast of Turkey annexed to Greece in 1913 (6)
16 Douglas, British fighter pilot who lost both his legs in a flying accident in 1931 (5)
17 Paul, French poet and critic whose works include 1917's La Jeune Parque (6)
20 Stout single-edged cavalry sword (5)

Solution tomorrow



Stuck on the puzzle? Call
0905 789 4190
to hear individual clues or the full solution
**Calls cost 80p per minute plus your telephone company's network access charge.*
Service provider Spoke Ltd -
Helpline 0333 202 3390

SAMURAI SUDOKU

In Samurai Sudoku, normal sudoku rules apply, but the 9x9 sudoku at the centre shares four of its 3x3 boxes with those of the outer sudokus.

Solution tomorrow

				2		1	6	7
			9		1			
		5				2		3
	2		3		7			
7						5		8
	3		6				2	
9		3		1				
8					3			
6		2		7				

3				2		4		5
7				8	4			
1				6				7
	9	8	2		6			
			8			2		4
	5	1				9		
			5		8		4	
							7	
		7						
		4						
		5						

				9				
			2		7			
			6		8			
			9	7		4		1
7	9	2						
	1		8			9		2
3				2	1			
						8	4	6
5		9		8				

6	8	5						
			2		7		8	
			6		8			

								9

				9				
			2		7		8	
			6		8			
			9	7		4		1
7	9	2						
	1		8			9		2
3				2	1			
						8	4	6
5		9		8				

				9				
			2		7		8	
			6		8			
			9	7		4		1
7	9	2						
	1		8			9		2
3				2	1			
						8	4	6
5		9		8				

WORD BUILDER

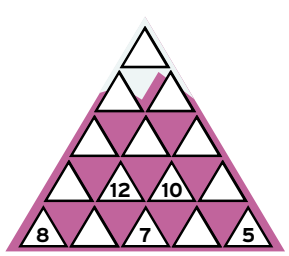
Answer each clue so that every word contains the same letters as the previous word, plus or minus one.

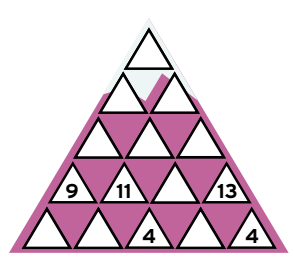
Solution tomorrow

1	□□□	1 Female deer
2	□□□□	2 Perform again
3	□□□□□	3 Fed up
4	□□□□□□	4 Edge
5	□□□□□	5 Command
6	□□□□	6 Travelled astride
7	□□□	7 Scarlet

SUMMIT UP

If the number in each triangle is the sum of the two below, what is the top number?



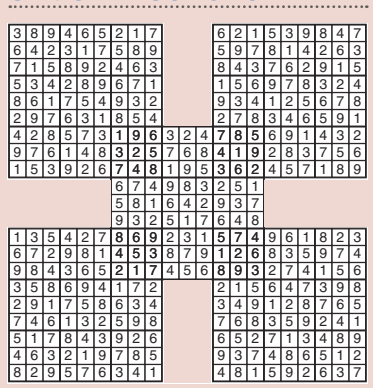


Solution tomorrow

QUIZWORD

Across:
1 Mary Pickford,
7 Basil,
8 Radar,
9 Eco,
10 Beaumaris,
11 Arnold,
12 Advent,
15 Delacroix,
17 Ear,
18 Algoa,
19 Monet,
21 Dreamcatcher.
Down:
1 Master And Man,
2 Pas,
3 Callas,
4 Ford Madox,
5 Ryder,
6 Irish Terrier,
7 Brown,
10 Balaclava,
13 Evert,
14 Formic,
16 Luger,
20 Nut.

SAMURAI SUDOKU



SMALL CROSSWORD

Across: 1 Umbrella, **8** Apiary, **9** Silk, **10** Sam, **11** Inmate, **13** Glamorous, **15** Amulet, **17** Tea, **18** Sofa, **19** Latest, **20** Resettle.
Down: 1 Unsightly, **2** Mainly, **3** Balm, **4** Epitomise, **5** Line, **6** Lasso, **7** By mistake, **12** Rueful, **14** Abate, **15** Apes, **16** Loot.

ARROW-WORD

Arrow-words are like crosswords, but the clues are printed inside squares on the grid. Write your answers in the blank squares in the direction indicated by the arrows.

Solution tomorrow

WORDSEARCH

D	I	D	G	S	F	T	U	R	L	P	N	E	U	Q
R	P	V	W	N	Z	E	A	S	E	A	N	D	S	T
A	I	T	G	R	A	S	S	G	E	R	I	P	M	U
C	G	D	L	L	A	B	N	R	T	E	D	Q	N	D
D	U	C	V	L	S	E	A	T	S	Z	D	Q	O	A
L	U	N	F	P	L	C	D	S	L	D	Y	U	D	I
I	D	L	S	L	Q	M	F	I	E	U	B	V	N	I
W	E	K	A	U	S	L	N	U	W	L	A	H	B	H
A	U	H	E	W	O	E	K	Q	E	N	I	F	S	C
V	C	T	P	B	J	T	B	S	T	T	T	N	T	T
K	E	Z	N	U	R	E	N	A	U	O	E	T	E	A
D	J	I	D	U	W	Q	G	W	W	K	M	C	D	M
G	U	G	O	H	X	E	C	E	J	R	A	L	L	Y
P	E	C	T	U	M	Z	L	G	K	V	G	A	P	N
H	W	W	D	O	L	G	G	D	H	Z	O	Y	J	C

WORDS RELATING TO TENNIS

Find all the terms listed below in the grid.

Solution tomorrow

ADVANTAGE ● BALL ● BASELINE
CHALLENGE ● CLAY ● COURT ● DEUCE
DOUBLES ● FAULT ● GAME ● GRASS
LINE JUDGE ● MATCH ● RACQUET
RALLY ● SEED ● SET ● TOWEL
UMPIRE ● WILD CARD

YESTERDAY'S SOLUTIONS

QUICK CROSSWORD

Across: 1 Tiff, **8** Inexorable, **9** Domestic, **10** Heap, **12** Apathy, **14** Yellow, **15** Peewit, **17** Torrid, **18** Less, **19** Eventual, **21** Legislator, **22** Ewer.
Down: 2 Incomplete, **3** Fine, **4** Sentry, **5** Touchy, **6** Bachelor, **7** Deep, **11** Abominable, **13** Township, **16** Treble, **17** Treaty, **18** Lull, **20** Tire.

WORDSEARCH

N	Y	U	H	C	I	B	E	P	P	C	V	A	P	R
R	M	A	L	T	L	Z	O	I	B	Z	M	O	E	U
K	I	F	W	B	A	R	L	E	Y	O	P	T	W	O
O	L	J	S	V	L	S	L	C	R	O	T	S	E	U
V	D	H	V	G	N	A	S	V	K	I	T	P	M	
M	T	S	A	E	Y	H	G	U	B	N	J	M	L	L
R	J	X	R	S	F	F	U	E	T	U	M	H	G	E
S	L	E	B	A	L	W	L	A	R	V	H	O	P	S
E	A	Q	D	H	E	G	S	E	L	A	L	A	E	R
T	W	P	C	Z	F	E	Z	L	D	P	I	R	E	L
J	A	X	F	G	I	K	B	T	Q	Y	U	H	B	Z
N	T	I	F	W	Y	G	R	U	M	Y	Z	S	T	S
F	E	R	M	E	N	T	A	T	I	O	N	A	J	X
X	R	Y	S	W	Z	E	H	C	J	J	P	M	K	H
T	E	Y	R	E	W	E	R	B	Z	S	Z	W	L	O

ARROW-WORD

		P		T		L			M		C			
B	L	A	D	E		E	N	R	I	C	H			
	O	R	I	N	O	C	O		S	E	A			
T	W	I	S	T		T	R	U	S	T	S			
	E	A	R		W	E	D		T	E	E			
	S	H	U	T		R	I	S	E	R				
	T		P	R	I	N	C	I	P	A	L		R		F
L		S	T	I	R			T			O	B	E	S	E
I		A	S	T	O	N	I	S	H	E	S		S	P	A
V	O	L		E	N	I	D		E	N	E	M	I	E	S
	B	A	I	L		P	O	W	E	R	S		N	E	T
S	O	R	R	Y			L	I	D	O		P		D	
	E	Y	E		M	U	S	T		L	A	U	R	I	E
				C	O	N		H		S	C	R	O	L	L
				B	U	S					T	R	A	Y	S
					S	T	E	A	L	S		D			
C	O	U	R	A	G	E			C	H	O	P			
	R	A	I	S	E	S			I	O	W	A			
H	E	L	P	E	D			W	A	G	E	R			

SUDOKU EASY

6	8	5	3	1	9	2	4	7
1	2	3	8	7	4	9	5	6
4	9	7	5	6	2	1	8	3
2	6	8	9	5	1	3	7	4
7	1	9	6	4	3	5	2	8
5	3	4	2	8	7	6	9	1
3	7	2	1	9	8	4	6	5
9	4	6	7	3	5	8	1	2
8	5	1	4	2	6	7	3	9

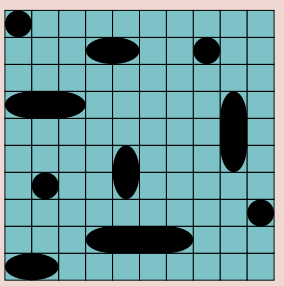
SUDOKU MEDIUM

4	2	9	1	8	5	3	6	7
1	6	5	4	7	3	9	2	8
7	3	8	6	2	9	4	1	5
5	7	3	2	6	4	8	9	1
8	4	6	7	9	1	5	3	2
2	9	1	3	5	8	7	4	6
3	1	7	8	4	2	6	5	9
6	5	4	9	1	7	2	8	3
9	8	2	5	3	6	1	7	4

SUDOKU DIFFICULT

6	9	3	8	2	1	7	5	4
4	2	8	5	3	7	1	9	6
7	1	5	6	9	4	2	3	8
1	8	2	7	5	6	9	4	3
3	4	6	1	8	9	5	7	2
5	7	9	2	4	3	8	6	1
8	6	4	9	7	2	3	1	5
2	3	7	4	1	5	6	8	9
9	5	1	3	6	8	4	2	7

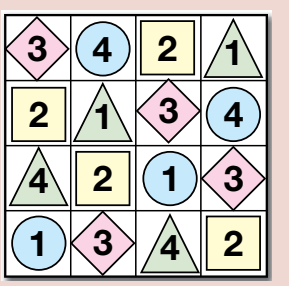
BATTLESHIPS



KAKURO

		2	1			1	3	
	1	5	3		3	2	4	1
	3	6		2	1		5	3
		3	2	1		1	7	
		4	1		1	7	9	
	2	1		1	2		8	1
	1	8	6	9		2	1	4
		7	1			1	6	

KEIJO



TARGET

DEFIANTLY
daftly, daily, dainty, deafly, DEFIANTLY, deftly, defy, deify, deity, delay, deny, dyne, edify, faintly, fatly, fealty, fetidly, finely, fitly, flay, flayed, flinty, idly, inlay, lady, laity, leafy, lefty, lenity, litany, neatly, nifty, tidy, tiny, yeti, yield

THE ALPHAPUZZLE

Across: Rooster, What, Holy, Exported, Zealot, Rained, Junkie, Angora, Quantify, Bust, Heed, Ionised.
Down: Groove, Usurer, Pony, Likened, Attest, Elicit (clue), Proper, Anyone, Warring, Bash, Gamete, Reside.

THE ALPHABEATER

Black squares: 1, 5, 8, 10, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 29, 33, 38.
Across: Quick, Movement, Detox, Sways, Interject, Pig, Monk, Vibe, Fib, Upholders, Zeros, Waxed, Polygamy, Waltz. **Down:** Use, Egos, Timber, Choke, Usage, Gopher, Shrimp, Feast, Drama, Ampere, Envy, Eft.

CROSS DOUBT

Across: UNDER
Down: QUILT

SUMMIT UP

77 and 103

WORD BUILDER

Cot, Cost, Scout, Counts, Snout, Nous, Sun

Puzzles

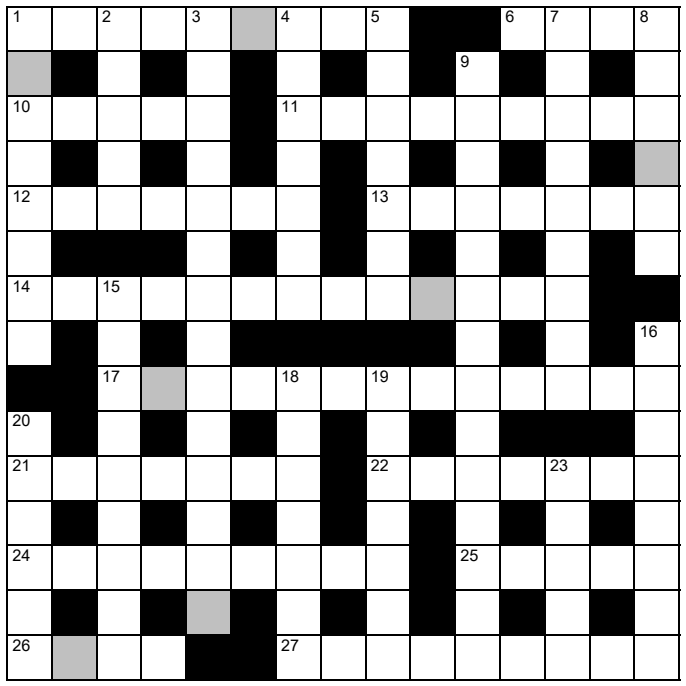
CRUSADER PRIZE CROSSWORD

ACROSS

1 Unwilling shout about clue solved on time (9)
6 Vendetta is loud, and due to change (4)
10 Lowest point of drain layout (5)
11 Old army officer in counter manoeuvre (9)
12 Start a book (7)
13 Routine gets ready for award (7)
14 Consider poems about what's needed after diving (13)
17 Moment serving to alter bad rule (13)
21 Unwavering as a 1980s pop star (7)
22 Christmas show gets Henry married, in spirit (7)
24 Terribly pious about boy getting old and toxic (9)
25 Anxious part of speech (5)
26 Clairvoyant to cut five out (4)
27 Moved orders out for royal symbol (5,4)

DOWN

1 Dissident turned green and made front disappear (8)
2 Left port fully loaded (5)
3 Song from festive woman? (9,5)
4 A Catholic curse about the plaintiff (7)
5 Number sure to adjust terms (7)
7 Nice set moved after getting old, in reality (9)
8 Initially designing mental meal (6)
9 Game chairman to interrogate teacher (8,6)
15 Tents next to a river and a tower (9)
16 Steed worried about current rush (8)
18 Unacceptable mail from distant settlement (7)
19 Former spouse sat, revealed (7)
20 Woman gets father's terrain (6)
23 Got an alternative routine (5)



WIN £100 CASH

FOR YOUR CHANCE TO WIN
Read down the letters in the highlighted squares to reveal the mystery word.

TO ENTER: Call **0904 161 3700** (calls cost £1.50 plus your telephone company's network access charge) and leave your answer and details, or text **DXCRUS** followed by a space, your answer, name and address details to **88833** (texts cost £1.50 plus your standard network rate). Lines close at midnight Saturday. Or send your grid containing the answer in the shaded squares by posting it to: Crusader Crossword, January 22, PO Box 8694, Derby DE1 9TW. Entries must be postmarked by January 23 at the latest. For any postal enquiries, call helpline number. SP: Spoke – 0333 202 3390.
An extra day is given for postal entries during bank holidays.
● ***One weekly winner will be the first random correct entry drawn from all entry routes after the closing date of midnight Saturday. Competition runs Sunday to Saturday. The Editor's decision is final.***

NEED HELP? Call **0904 161 1609** for 5 extra clues! Calls cost £1.50 plus your telephone company's network access charge.

NAME

ADDRESS

POSTCODE

TUESDAY'S SOLUTION

ACROSS: 1 Sash, 3 Provenance, 9 Crow, 10 Imprinting, 11 Alternative, 15 Establish, 17 Suede, 18 Terse, 19 Ludicrous, 20 See the light, 24 Draw a blank, 25 Onus, 26 Sleepyhead, 27 Used. **DOWN:** 1 Sacramento, 2 Short story, 4 Rumba, 5 Varnished, 6 Nonsensical, 7 Nail, 8 Ergo, 12 Rubber-stamp, 13 Belongings, 14 Sensitised, 16 Ill health, 21 Henna, 22 Odds, 23 Hare. **Prizeword:** Premature

TARGET

R	E	E
U	T	X
Y	C	O

● *The Target uses words in the main body of Chambers 21st Century Dictionary (1999 edition)*

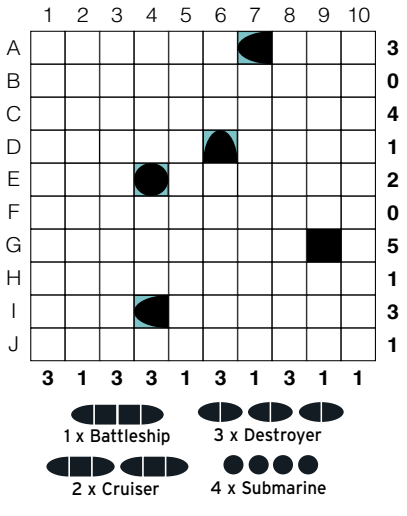
HOW many words of four letters or more can you make from the letters shown here?
In making a word, each letter may be used once only. Each must contain the centre letter and there must be at least one nine-letter word. No plurals. Verb forms ending in S permitted.

TODAY'S TARGET
Good 18**; very good** 27**; excellent** 36 **(or more).** Solution tomorrow

Call **0907 181 2585**
for today's Target solution
**Calls cost 80p per minute plus your telephone company's network access charge.*

BATTLESHIPS

FIND where the fleet of ships shown is hidden in the grid. The numbers to the right of and below the grid indicate how many of the squares in that row are filled in with ships or parts of ships. The ships do not touch each other, even diagonally. Some squares have been filled in to start you off.
Solution tomorrow



THE ALPHABEATER

TARGET TIME: 36 minutes

CAN you crack the Alphabeater? Each grid number represents a letter – or black square. As in Alphapuzzle, every letter of the alphabet is used. But you have to complete the grid too! Use the given letters and black squares below the grid to start. The grid is 'rotationally symmetrical' – in other words, it looks the same if you turn the page upside down.
Solution tomorrow

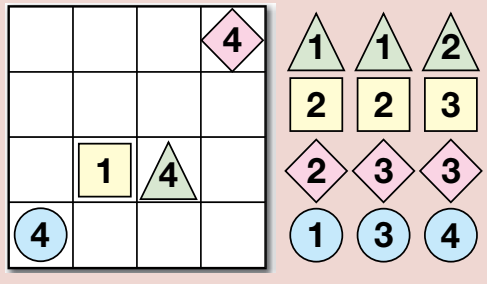
Extra letter clues
0907 181 2560
(Deduct three minutes for each extra clue letter heard)
Full solution
0907 181 2558
**Calls cost 80p per minute plus your telephone company's network access charge.*

A	17	38	27	34	30	34	11	23	38	35	31	10	8
B													
C	34	12	8	19	10	27	4	14	30	21	22	20	27
D													
E	11	22	28	14	20	31	13	39	10	13	20	19	14
F													
G	27	18	25	3	18	25	36	38	15	35	31	12	37
H													
I	14	13	32	35	17	9	23	16	34	8	11	34	29
J													
K	39	11	22	17	34	18	14	2	6	38	34	35	12
L													
M	23	12	11	35	11	37	1	34	34	19	20	32	15
N													
O	3	36	26	33	23	3	30	35	30	6	34	22	11
P													
Q	30	23	37	1	34	15	25	3	23	4	12	3	22
R													
S	21	9	34	18	40	18	19	24	2	10	5	9	37
T													
U	22	13	7	10	12	29	33	22	14	11	14	20	31
V													
W	30	23	37	39	39	8	10	31	19	36	20	18	16
X													
Y	16	2	30	9	13	7	22	30	5	34	27	36	23
Z													

1	2	3	4	5	6 W	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16 H	17	18	19	20
21 L	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	■	■	34	35	36	37	38	39	40

● Alternatively, for six Extra Letter clues to your mobile, text **DXBEAT** to **64343.** Texts cost £1 plus standard network rate.

KEIJO



Place the tiles into the grid so that four different numbers and four different shapes appear in each row and column.
Solution tomorrow

THE ALPHAPUZZLE®

Alphapuzzle® tests logic and word power. Each grid number stands for a letter. Every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter or letters – below the main grid – to start. Solution tomorrow
DIFFICULTY: 9/10; **TARGET:** 28 mins; **CLUE:** Line between PR characters.

A	■	4	3	10	25	19	■	26	25	1	20	17	■
B													
C	8	■	■	7	■	11	■	11	■	3	■	■	24
D													
E	7	■	20	8	3	1	3	4	25	26	20	■	7
F													
G	13	7	19	10	■	■	9	■	■	20	12	25	10
H													
I	3	■	19	■	15	11	20	11	20	■	10	■	25
J													
K	24	20	20	■	11	■	1	■	6	■	20	22	21
L													
M	■	■	8	14	25	1	■	17	7	13	1	■	■
N													
O	18	20	10	■	19	■	14	■	2	■	26	3	2
P													
Q	20	■	25	■	19	13	3	16	20	■	25	■	3
R													
S	22	3	6	20	■	■	24	■	■	7	6	25	2
T													
U	22	■	20	26	9	25	3	1	7	23	20	■	23
V													
W	5	■	■	9	■	22	■	11	■	11	■	■	20
X													
Y	■	21	7	5	7	21	■	1	25	20	8	20	■
Z													

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8 C	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17 W	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26

EXTRA LETTER CLUES: 0907 181 2568*
Hear up to six Extra Letters, deduct two minutes for each clue letter heard.
FULL SOLUTION: **0907 181 2565***
ACROSS ONLY: **0907 181 2561*** / DOWN ONLY: **0907 181 2562***
**Calls cost 80p per minute plus your telephone company's network access charge.*

Alternatively, for six extra letter clues direct to your mobile, text **DXALPHA** *to* **64343.** *Texts cost £1 plus standard network rate.*

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THE DAILY EXPRESS 30-SECOND CHALLENGE

TODAY'S ANSWERS: BEGINNER = 8; INTERMEDIATE = 252; ADVANCED = 37.

PLAY MORE CROSSWORDS AND GAMES AT EXPRESS.CO.UK/PUZZLES

PUZZLES SPECIAL

8 PAGES OF TANTALISING TEASERS!

PUZZLES

WORDSEARCH

Can you find all the listed iems in the grid? Words may read forwards or backwards, horizontally, vertically or diagonally.

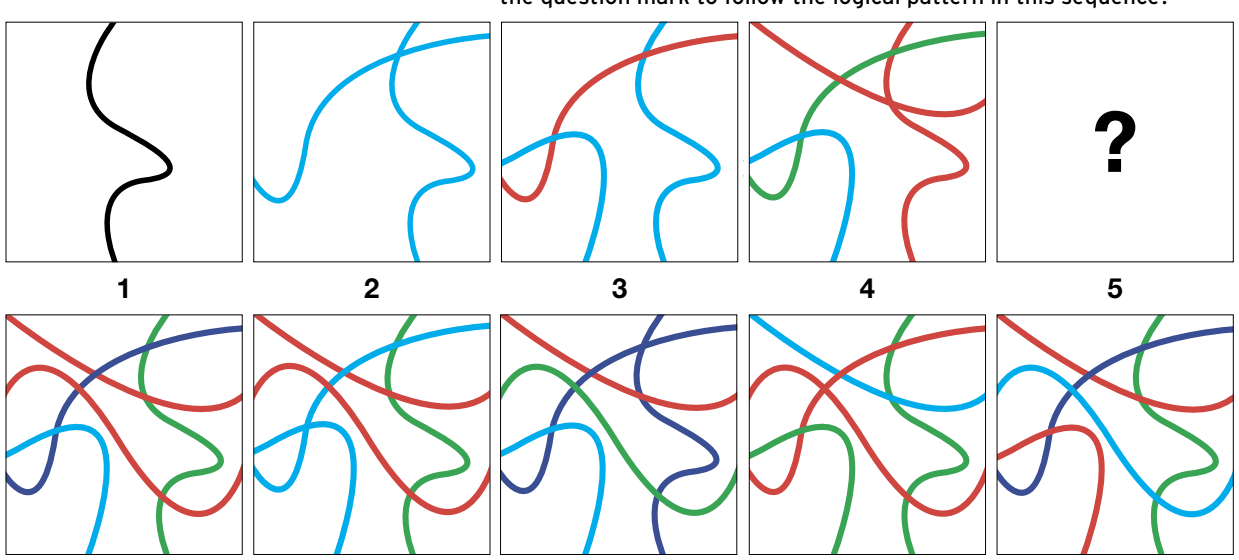
1960S HITS

O P Z V X X T N G W I J U L I E T Y V
B Z Z I K O O H P P S J P X S E L Z V
X R I F P O B X E D P N O T H X J I V
G M L E M B Q B O B N L O E E N O B Z
M Y G E N E R A T I O N R A R W N M G
E P U L K Y G H N X D X M R R T T N A
J L V F I H J Z N B M C E S Y K I W Z
B G B I L S U R R E N D E R H H M H M
Y G V N I T D V V D L O O E T E A Y O
D D A E K K A P A C H E V D O R L C N
T X I Z E A G O N O W O L J A A I P Y
E T T V I M N E Q L L I Z G L H V C M
L T S O T S U O D Y W F U M P F E P O
S N O D G L O W B O A S M H H R C K N
T Q V G E T B A C K R U P M Y W A Y Y
A L E S Z Y B Z G A L B A T R O S S E
R Y R B J V T Z G B R U N A W A Y C B
B L W H E W J U H R E S P E C T K Z W
K R C L F F S A C I P W Y E H Y E H E

ALBATROSS
APACHE
BABY LOVE
BLUEMOON
GET BACK
GO NOW
HELP!
I FEEL FINE
I LIKE IT
I'M ALIVE
IT'S OVER
JULIET
MONY MONY
MY GENERATION
MY WAY
POOR ME
RESPECT
RUNAWAY
SHERRY
SUGAR, SUGAR
SURRENDER
TEARS
TELSTAR
THE BOXER
WHY
WILD THING
YEH YEH

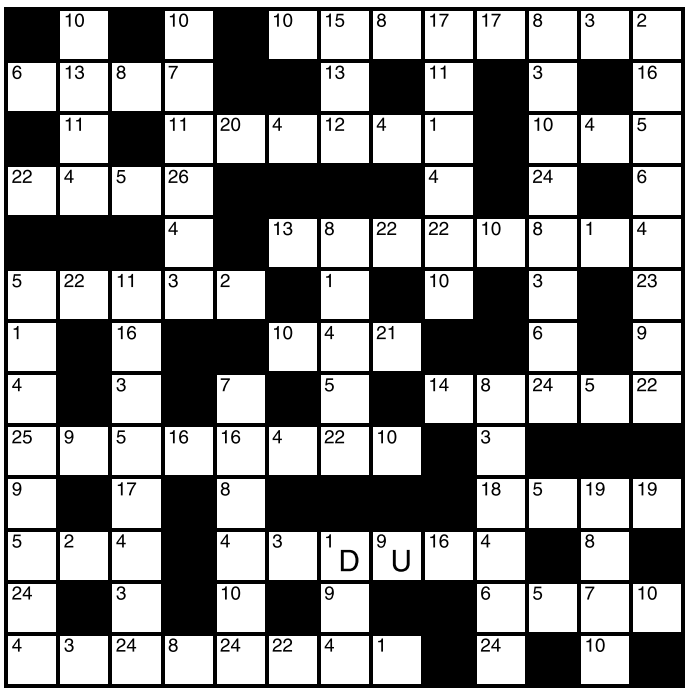
PATTERN MAKER

Which one of the numbered squares on the bottom row should replace the question mark to follow the logical pattern in this sequence?

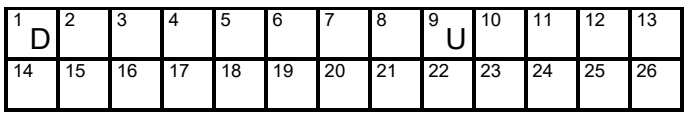


CODEWORD

This puzzle has no clues. Instead, every number printed in the grid represents a letter. Use your knowledge of words to solve the puzzle. Two letters are given to start you off.



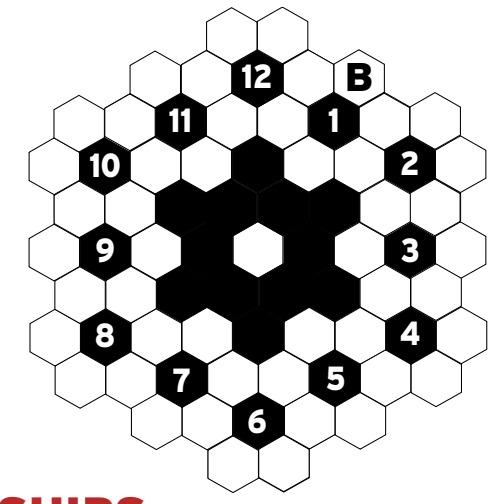
A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z



HONEYCOMB

All the solutions read clockwise around their numbers. The solution to clue number 1 starts from the given letter.

1 Inducements
2 Sarcastic
3 Ash
4 Trifle with
5 Type of fish
6 Offshoot
7 Squat
8 Gold decoration
9 Lent
10 Sewing tool
11 Feature
12 Sitting



BATTLESHIPS

In Battleships, you have to find where the fleet of ships shown are hidden in the ten by ten grid. The numbers to the right of and below the grid indicate how many of the squares in that row are filled in with ships or parts of ships. The ships do not touch each other, even diagonally. Some squares have been filled in to start you off.

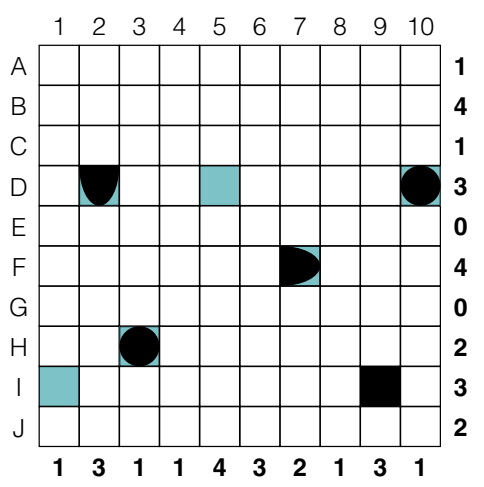
THE FLEET

1 x Battleship

2 x Cruiser

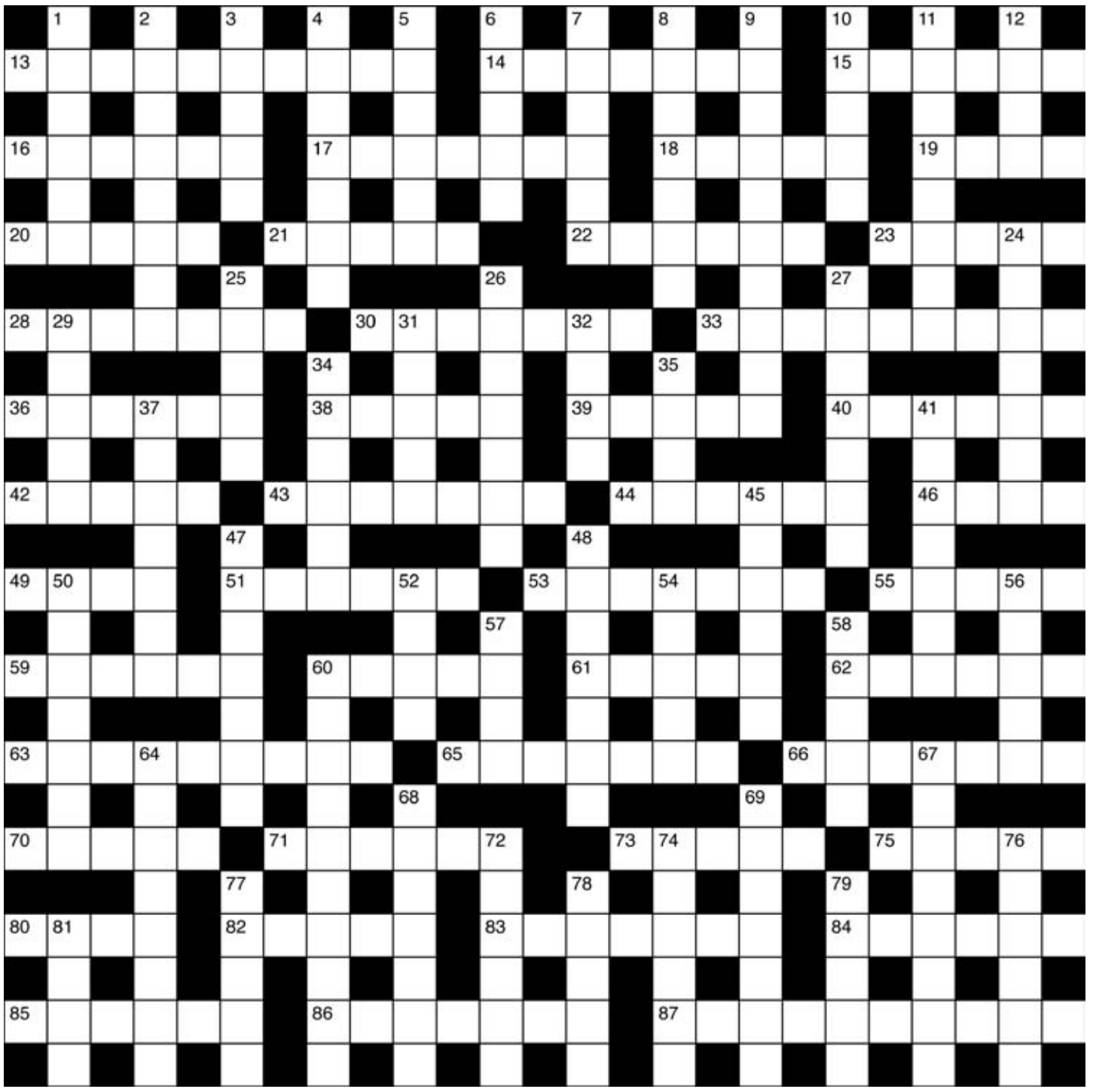
3 x Destroyer

4 x Submarine



GIANT TWO-SPEED CROSSWORD

Choose between straight and cryptic clues in this giant crossword – both sets lead to the same answers.



STRAIGHT

ACROSS

13 Energy (3,2,3,2)
14 View (7)
15 Truly (6)
16 Skipper (6)
17 Quickly (7)
18 Article (5)
19 Frank (4)
20 Appropriate (5)
21 Strange (5)
22 Excitement (6)
23 Nab (5)
28 Touched lightly (7)
30 Ahead (7)
33 Sweetener (9)
36 Goes by (6)
38 Run out (5)
39 Horde (5)
40 Shut (6)
42 Creep (5)
43 With difficulty (7)
44 Sofa (6)
46 At that time (4)
49 Rota (4)
51 Nevertheless (6)
53 Moved (7)
55 Blow (5)
59 Cushioned (6)
60 River (5)
61 Smallest (5)
62 Pencil (6)
63 Juts (6,3)
65 Bent (7)
66 Harden (7)
70 Sway (5)
71 Regulate (6)
73 Apt (5)
75 Weary (5)
80 Detect (4)
82 Puddles (5)
83 Train (7)
84 Laugh (6)
85 Jiffy (6)
86 Suppose (7)
87 Seen personally (3,2,5)

DOWN

1 Stay (6)
2 Shore up (8)
3 Dog (5)
4 Stuck (7)
5 Policeman (6)
6 Twelve (5)
7 Skips (6)
8 Chases away (7)
9 See (10)
10 Colour (5)
11 View (8)
12 Depressed (4)
24 Oriental (7)
25 Stop (5)
26 Bird (7)
27 Wolfed (7)
29 Cook (5)
31 Tree (5)
32 Shake (4)
34 Take to (6)
35 Solitary (4)
37 Began (7)
41 Fruit (7)
45 Understanding (6)
47 Nationality (7)
48 Vegetable (7)
50 Worried (2,1,4)
52 Dry (4)
54 Skeleton (5)
56 Heavy (5)
57 Fingered (4)
58 Sharp (5)
60 Petition (5,5)
64 Era (8)
67 Abrasion (8)
68 Language (7)
69 Makes popular (7)
72 Retire (4,2)
74 Flee (3,3)
76 Number (6)
77 Rows (5)
78 Different (5)
79 Holds (5)
81 Plan (4)

CRYPTIC

ACROSS

13 Having the energy, what to do when released from hospital (3,2,3,2)
14 In my view, nothing will immobilise (7)
15 Well! And truly (6)
16 He's the skipper, young man (6)
17 Quickly give your views on (7)
18 Article about a gun? (5)
19 To be frank, undecided as yet (4)
20 A woman, old, would be appropriate (5)
21 Very strange when I pulled the cover back (5)
22 Excitement created by landing in the drink (6)
23 Grasp, when you walk in on unexpectedly (5)
28 Hardly touched, in the hurry to get into bed (7)
30 Getting ahead because you pull back (7)
33 The tea in the can is terrible. It's very sweet (9)
36 Goes by the narrow roads (6)
38 Run out with a light (5)
39 Figure the word misspelled is "horde" (5)
40 Shut in the cooler, is set to reform (6)
42 Creep out from "61" (5)
43 With difficulty, the animal built a home in (7)
44 Put "Stand by the seat" (6)
46 Given a hard time about, in those days (4)
49 Be inclined to tabulate (4)
51 Accompanied by a man, nevertheless (6)
53 One foot, when she had grabbed it, moved (7)
55 Drink for the bash (5)
59 Walked quietly, one also said (6)
60 Get her to swim about in the river (5)
61 From a large seat, moved to the smallest (5)
62 Do write "light" in pencil (6)
63 Isn't flush. That's obvious (6,3)
65 Bent over, having rushed outside (7)
66 If the fellow is covered by a gun, become harder (7)
70 Prepare to have a shot at music (5)
71 These days, only to regulate (6)
73 Apt to, when lying (5)
75 Run inside, bound to be in need of rest (5)
80 Detect, though it's a mere smidgin (4)
82 Waters in which the boat capsized (5)
83 About the tune I composed in the train (7)
84 Laugh at the bird, a tailless tern (6)
85 In a jiffy, mother got the ten dressed (6)
86 Suppose the picture will be taken round in (7)
87 As far as I'm concerned, why I've bought a safe (3,2,5)

DOWN

1 Don't leave me out in the rain (6)
2 Only the strand, or shore (8)
3 Can I get right inside with the dog? (5)
4 Stuck on the woman. Dead crazy about (7)
5 The fuzz is a reddish-brown colour (6)
6 Sleep to a quarter past twelve (5)
7 Skips with the girls (6)
8 Gets rid of. Somehow slides gently inside (7)
9 See you sit too much (10)
10 Dope about to be put in the shade (5)
11 View as a girl sheltered by the father and mother (8)
12 Down and dirty! (4)
24 Oriental child I had seen running by (7)
25 Note the patient has come round and stop (5)
26 Would you believe it! A bird! (7)
27 Got fed up with being laughed at (7)
29 Run down to cook (5)
31 Does she love to be alive? (5)
32 It's very hard to make wobble (4)
34 Take to be a duck in the crest, wrongly (6)
35 Left one isolated (4)
37 Began, one said, to trap rain (7)
41 A must when raising fruit (7)
45 Understanding it takes time to change a tyre (6)
47 For a foreign editor, smart to suppress (7)
48 Try, all in, to get something to eat (7)
50 Worried, I wasn't turning the key to enter (2,1,4)
52 Heard he left round about one, needing a drink (4)
54 With the skeleton, conspire to incriminate (5)
56 Heavy, but it's not far to go (5)
57 Was sensitive and touched by (4)
58 Sharp, making a cut with the point (5)
60 A circular, boy? It's a petition! (5,5)
64 Figure the site was demolished some years ago (8)
67 Chafing from the conflict (8)
68 Silly ass I give the run-around to. A foreigner (7)
69 Makes oneself popular at last with listeners (7)
72 Take to the station and go to bed (4,2)
74 Having no collar to hold, skedaddle (3,3)
76 Time the Spanish got even with (6)
77 Differences in menswear (5)
78 Not that you have to stand by her (5)
79 Holds up the corset (5)
81 Where you plan to grow flowers? (4)

PUZZLES

SUDOKU

Fill the grid so that every column, row and 3x3 square includes all the digits from 1 to 9

EASY

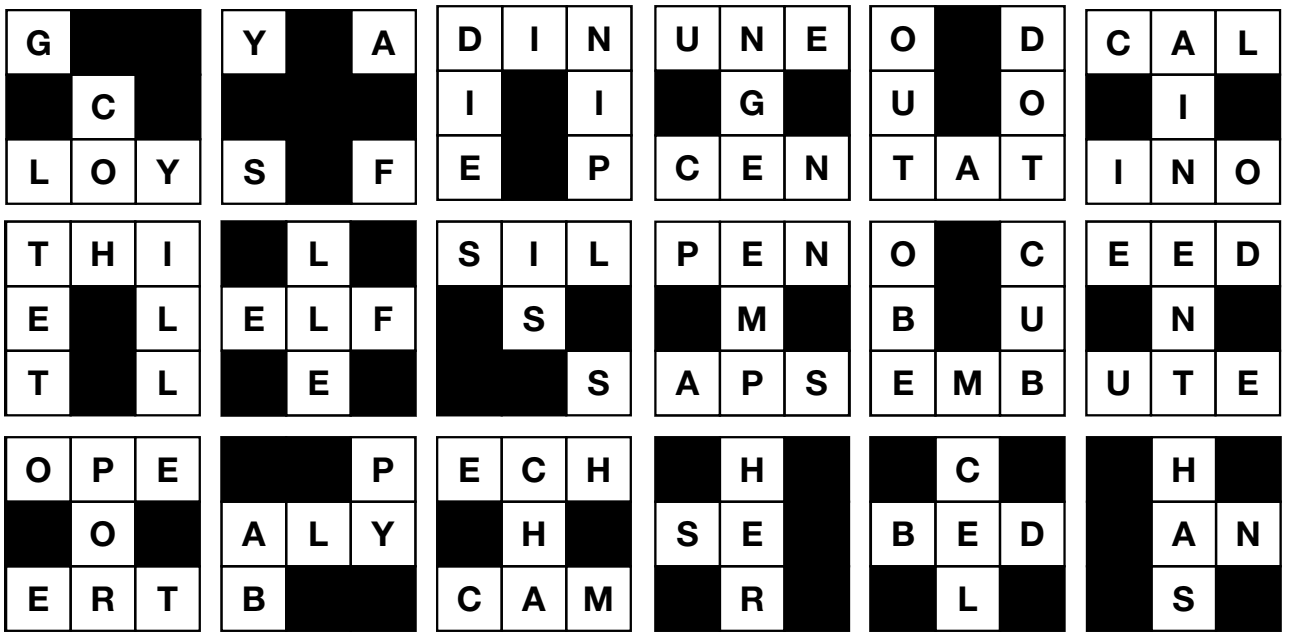
	3					6	2	5
7	6				3			1
			6	9	5			7
		1		5		3	4	
		3	1		6	2		
	9	8		7		5		
5			8	3	7			
8			2				5	3
3	4	7					8	

HARD

2	5				7			
3					2		1	
				5		3		
			8		4		5	9
		1				6		
9	4		7		3			
		4		2				
	9		4					5
			5				2	8

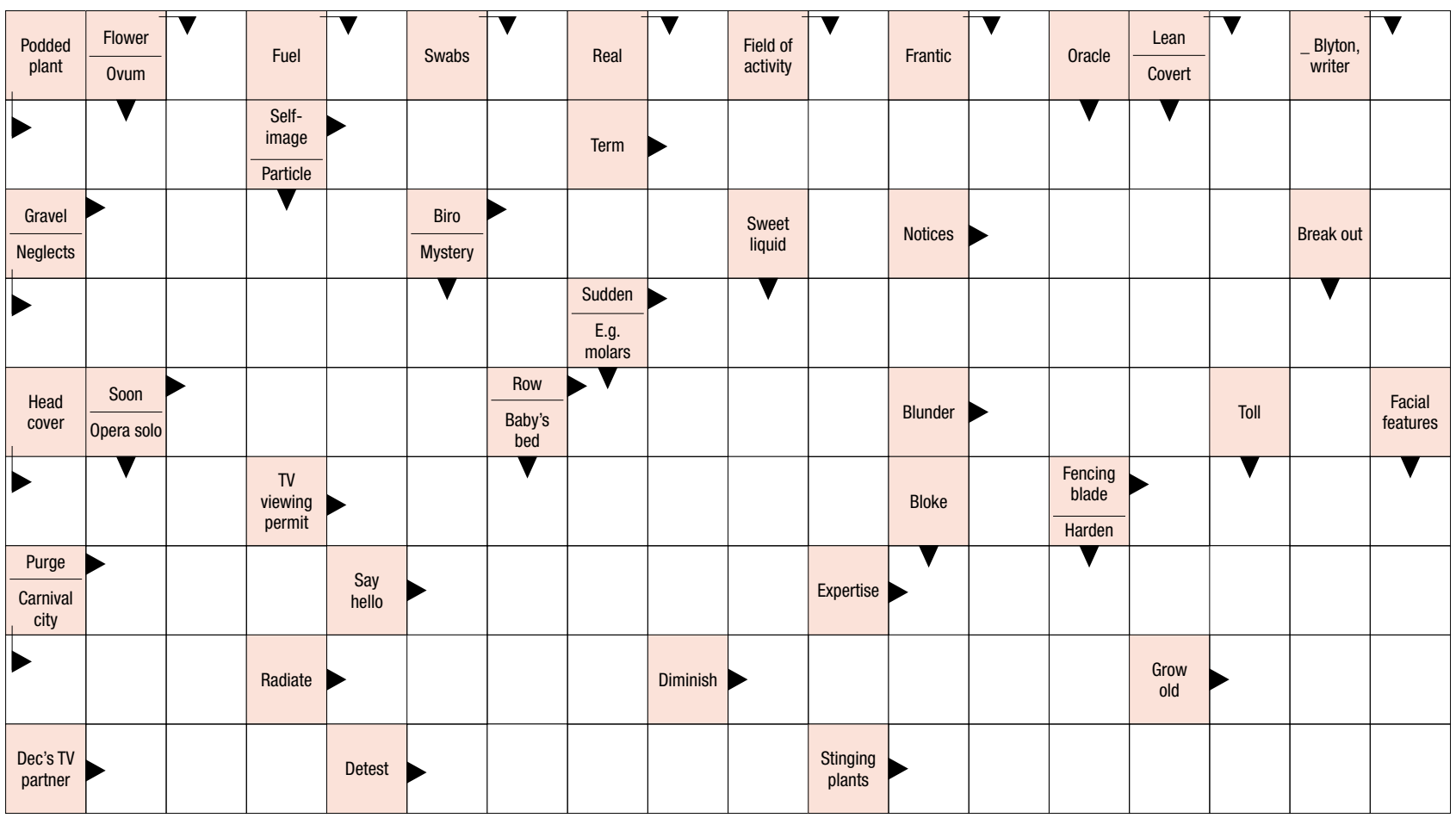
DOUBLE JIGWORD

Arrange these crossword fragments to create two completed symmetrical crosswords.


G C L O Y
Y A S F
D I N I I E P
U N E G C E N
O D U O T A T
C A L I I N O
T H I E L T L
L E L F E
S I L S S
P E N M A P S
O C B U E M B
E E D N U T E
O P E O E R T
P A L Y B
E C H H C A M
H S E R
C B E D L
H A N S

ARROW WORD

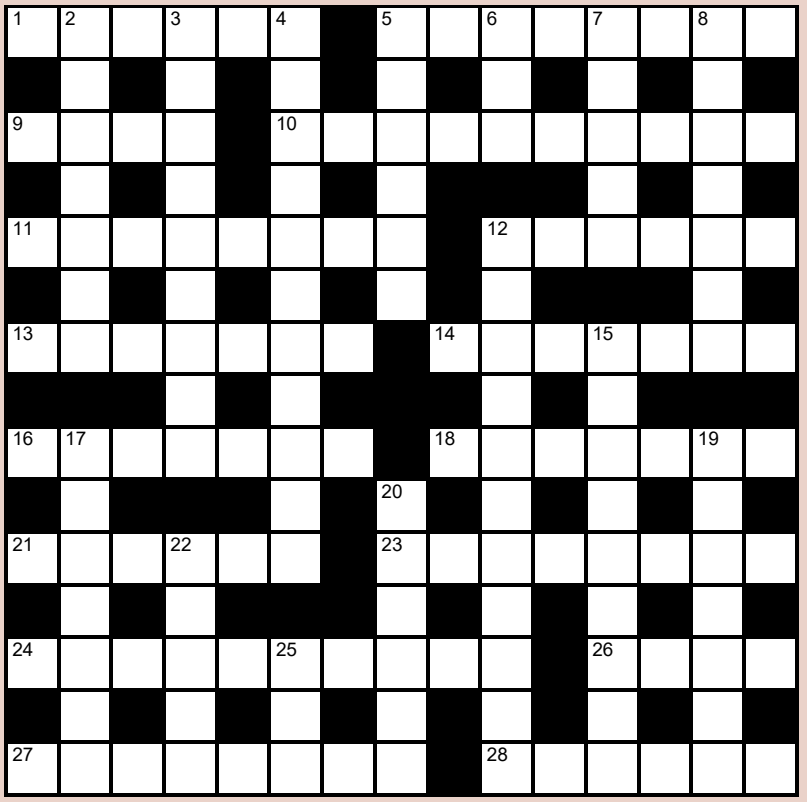
The arrows show the direction in which the answer to each clue should be placed.



PUZZLES

GENERAL KNOWLEDGE CROSSWORD

Test your grasp of the facts with this general knowledge challenge.



ACROSS

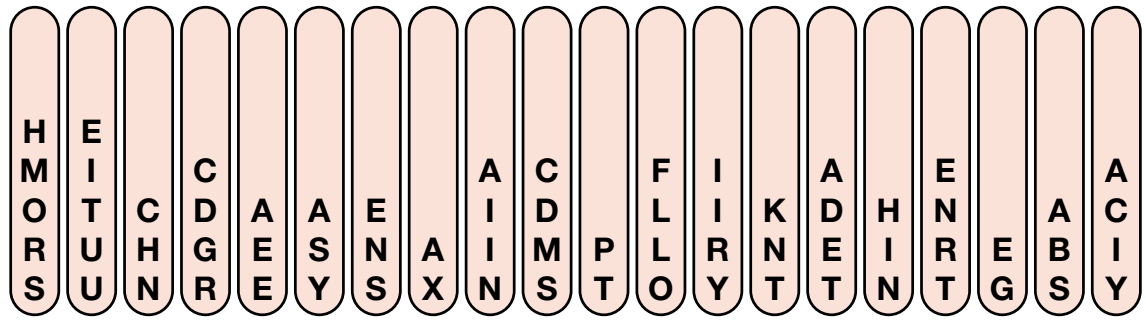
1 Plant, Daucus carota sativa, whose orange root is eaten as a vegetable (6)
5 City in Uttarakhand housing the Indian Military Academy (8)
9 The ___, 1970 novel by Jackie Collins (4)
10 2015 novel by Danielle Steel (10)
11 Beyoncé album released in 2016 (8)
12 Canadian province which lies mostly on the Canadian Shield (6)
13 Capital of the former Spanish Sahara; largest city of the disputed territory of Western Sahara (2,5)
14 David ___, Best Director Oscar nominee for The Curious Case of Benjamin Button (7)
16 Louis ___, Swiss-born geologist; founder in 1859 of the Museum of Comparative Zoology at Harvard University (7)
18 ___ heron, buff-brown bird of southern Europe, the Middle East and Africa (7)
21 Stoat in northern regions or its fur (6)
23 Member of a Native American people formerly of the southern US who now live chiefly in Oklahoma (8)
24 Spring on Mount Helicon sacred to the Muses in Greek mythology (10)
26 German car manufacturer that won a fifth consecutive Le Mans 24-hour race in 2014 (4)
27 PDF or ___ document format (8)
28 Michael ___, Ghanaian ex-Chelsea footballer (6)

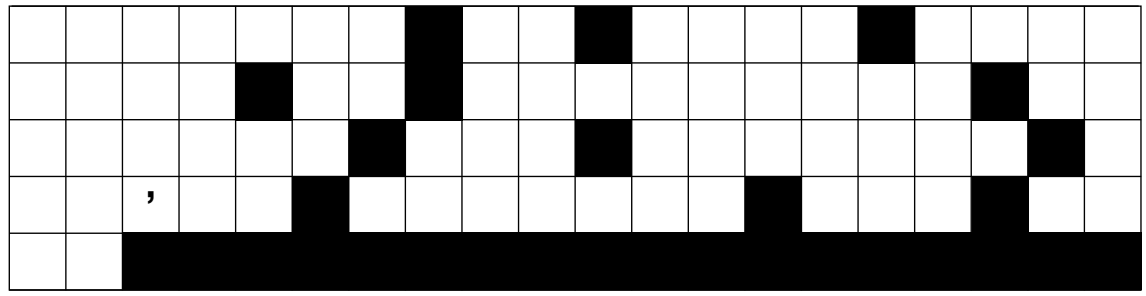
DOWN

2 George ___, US composer of operas Helen Retires and Transatlantic (7)
3 1987 Woody Allen film comedy starring Mia Farrow and Dianne Wiest (5,4)
4 Rare uranium mineral named after its place of origin in the Fergana Valley, Kyrgyzstan (11)
5 Fairground electric car (6)
6 2013 science-fiction romance film starring Joaquin Phoenix and Scarlett Johansson (3)
7 Make amends (5)
8 Small four-stringed Hawaiian guitar (7)
12 Ancient Roman galley with five banks of oars on each side (11)
15 Animal of a breed of large white beef cattle that originated around Charolles in France (9)
17 Ignacio ___, winner of the 2003 Volvo PGA Championship (7)
19 Don ___, Hotel Rwanda actor (7)
20 Chinua ___, author of 1958 novel Things Fall Apart (6)
22 Data entered into a computer by a peripheral device for processing (5)
25 Male swan (3)

QUOTE DOWN

Drop the letters in each column to reconstruct a quote by Audrey Hepburn. Words may be split across two lines.





LOGIC

Can you work out who caught each type of fish?

The Thames Valley annual fishing contest had just concluded, and the judges Sally and Chris were about to announce the winner based on the heaviest fish.

Five contestants had entered the competition this year, and each had caught a different species and length of fish. In the excitement of the tournament, the fish had been muddled up, and were no longer ranked in the correct order.

Sally and Chris tried to determine the outcome of the competition based on the snippets of the contest that they could remember.

"Surprisingly, the salmon, which was the longest fish, wasn't awarded first prize, but the shortest fish did come last," said Chris.

"That's interesting. I remember that Annie didn't catch the trout or pike, and that her fish was exactly twice as long as Ian's," replied Sally. "And it was either Stephen or Mia that came in fourth place with that beautiful carp."

"Ian won first prize didn't he?" asked Chris.

"I'm not sure about that. Ian placed above Niamh, but I can't remember if he took first prize," replied Sally.

"Stephen's fish certainly was impressive, measuring in at over half a metre. I'm sure it was ranked higher than the 30cm trout," said Chris.

After conferring for a few minutes, Sally and Chris were certain that they had matched each fish with the correct length and rank in the tournament, and handed out the prizes accordingly.

Can you determine the length of each fish and who caught each one?

	Carp	Bream	Trout	Salmon	Pike	24cm	30cm	48cm	60cm	73cm	First	Second	Third	Fourth	Fifth
Niamh															
Stephen															
Mia															
Annie															
Ian															
First															
Second															
Third															
Fourth															
Fifth															
24cm															
30cm															
48cm															
60cm															
73cm															

BRAIN TRAINING

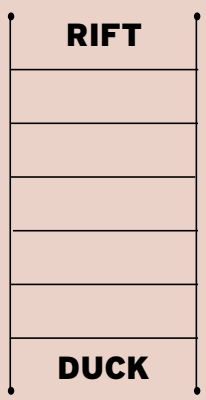
"You have brains in your head. You have feet in your shoes. You can steer yourself any direction you choose"
– Dr. Seuss

Give your brain a proper workout with this fine selection of mini puzzles, designed to stimulate those little grey cells in five key areas – Words, Visualisation, Numbers, Memory and Logic.

WORDS

WORD LADDER

Change just one letter to go from the top word to the bottom word in the ladder. There may be more than one solution.



ANAGRAMS

Unscramble each of the phrases below to reveal the names of five fairground rides.

BRACE RUMPS

LOCAL RESTORER

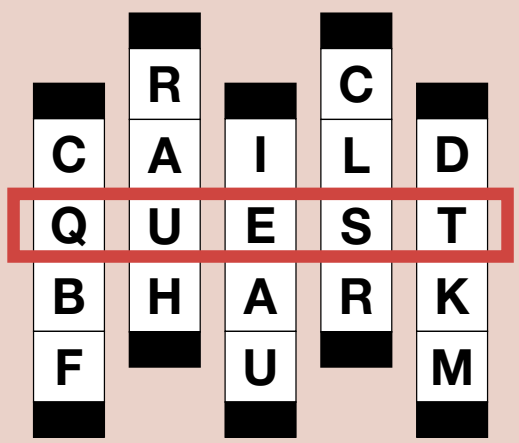
GOTHS RAN IT

WHERE'S FLIER?

LET HER ELK REST

WORD SLIDE

How many regular English words can be spelled out using all the sliders? One word is spelled already. Target score: 22



NINER

Each number from 1 to 9 represents a different letter. Solve the clues and insert the letters in the appropriate squares to discover a word which uses all nine letters.

9	7	8						

= a spirit

9	2	3	5	5	3			

= an alcoholic drink

4	3	6	1					

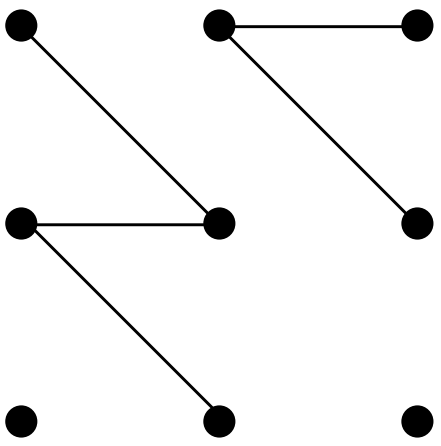
= a grain

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9

VISUALISATION

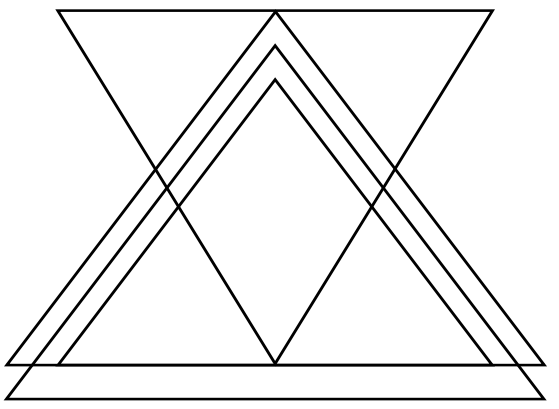
TRIANGLE

Draw **3** straight lines to make **7** triangles. Lines must be drawn from dot to dot, either passing through one dot or none at all. Triangles must not contain lines running through them, and every line segment must form part of a triangle.



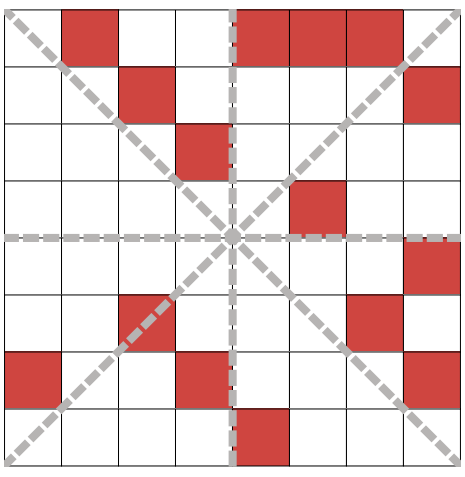
SHAPES

How many triangles are there in the illustration below?



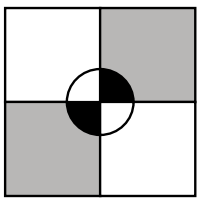
SYMMETRY

Shade in eight of the blank squares so that the pattern shows reflectional symmetry along one of the four axes shown.

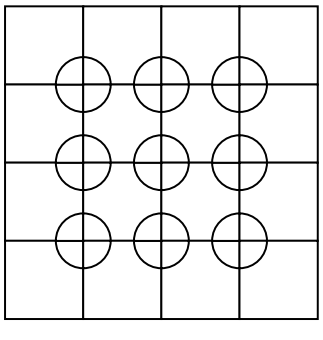


SEKI

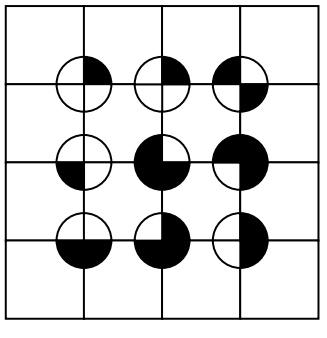
Using the blank grid, rotate some of the circles shown in the start grid and then shade in the corresponding squares (as shown right), so that shaded squares contain only black quarter-circles.



BLANK GRID

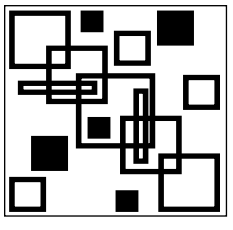


START GRID

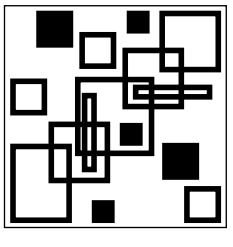


MIRROR IMAGE

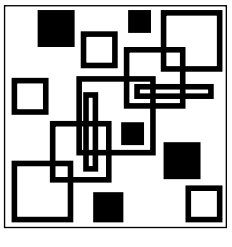
Which of the four images below is the mirror image of the one to the right?



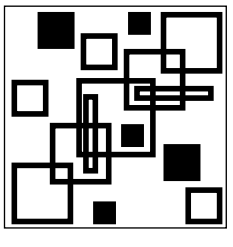
A



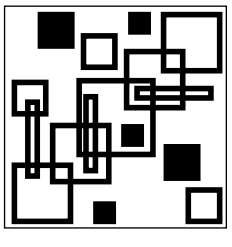
B



C



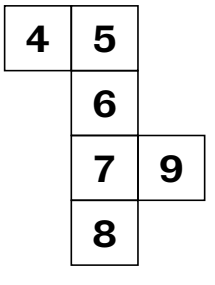
D



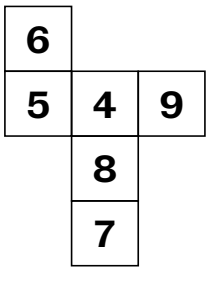
NETS

Which of these nets can be constructed to make the cube with the two opposite faces that add up to the lowest number?

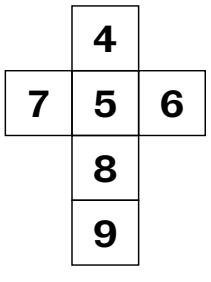
A



B



C



NUMBERS

SUMTHING

Place the listed numbers into the grid so that all sums are correct, reading left to right and top to bottom.

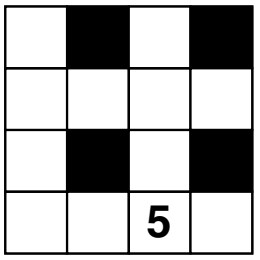
6	×		=		
+	■	−	■	−	■
	×		=		
=	■	=	■	=	■
	×		=		

1, 2, 3, 3, 4, 4, 4, 6, 8, 8, 9

NUMBER JIG

Which one of the listed numbers won't fit in this mini grid?

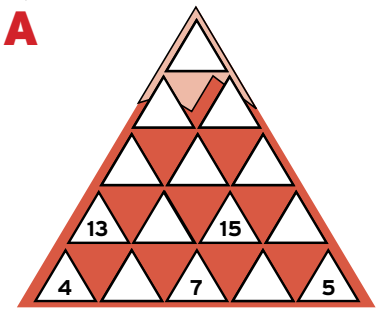
5753 7635
6575 7736
6753



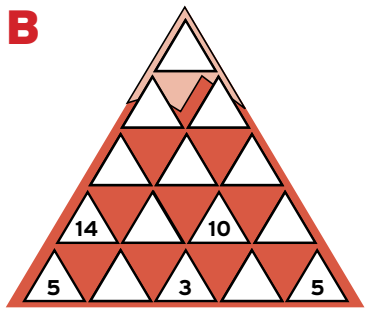
SUMMIT UP

If the number in each triangle is the sum of the two below, what is the top number?

A



B



LOGIC

CELLS

Divide the grid into square or rectangular blocks, each containing one digit only. Every block must contain the number of cells indicated by the digit inside it.

						3
		6	2			2
	4				4	
	5				2	
			5			3
2		3		2	2	
	4					

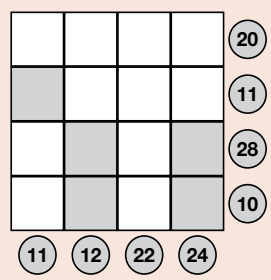
REASONING

1 The delivery driver must recall which house he visited first. He rang Olga's bell after the pink bell, and rang the red bell before Otis's but not third. Owen's was rung before Orla's and before the red bell, and the blue bell was rung after the silver bell which is not on Otis's door. Which colour is each person's doorbell and in which order were they visited?

2 The beans one below the top shelf cost more than the black beans and the baked beans separately. The beans one shelf above the pinto beans cost less than the baked beans, which are not on the bottom shelf. The kidney beans cost less than the beans one above the bottom shelf, which are not the second dearest. Can you order the beans on the four shelves from top to bottom?

EVENS

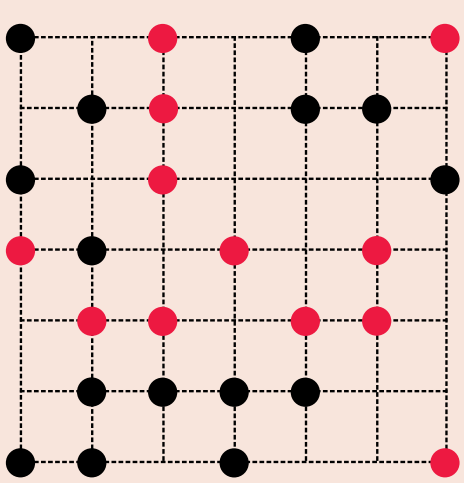
Insert any digit from 1 to 9 in the squares, so that the numbers in each row and column add up to the given totals. No digits may be repeated within a row or column, and even numbers must be placed in shaded squares.



DANGO

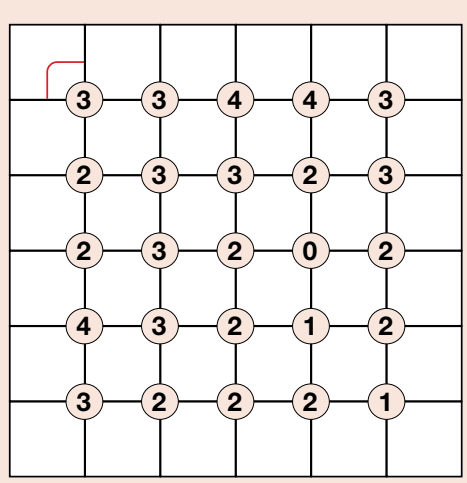
Draw lines between the dots to create four shapes in the grid. No shape may touch another and you must use all the dots. When a line reaches a dot, it turns as shown:

● 90° ● 45° or 135°



LOOP

Draw a continuous loop in the grid so that the number in each circle corresponds to the number of adjacent squares containing turns in the loop. Part of the loop has been drawn to get you started.



MEMORY

DICE GAME

Cover the bottom group of dice, and look closely at the top group for ten seconds. Then cover the top group and show the bottom group. Which dice are missing?

LOST FOR WORDS

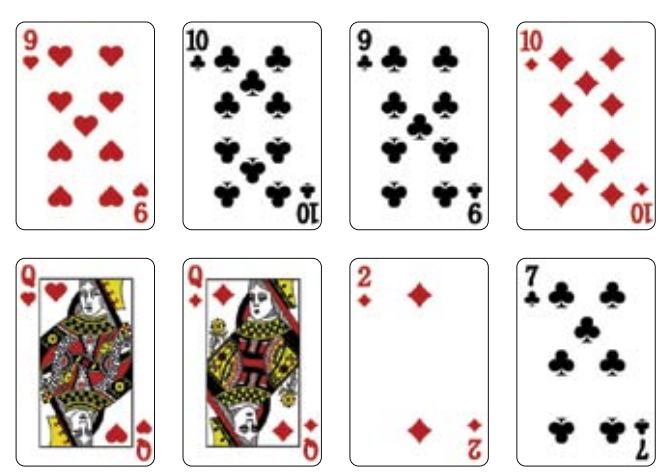
Cover the group of words on the right, then study the group on the left for two minutes. Then cover the group on the left and show the group on the right. Which words are missing?

BRISK
CHALK
DIANA
FLINT
FORTE
FROZEN
GLIDER
GROUSE
HECUBA
MERCURY
METEOR
NATURAL
NEPTUNE
NIPPY
PARIS
PERSEUS
PIZZICATO
RAINBOW
SLATE
SPARROW
WARBLER

NEPTUNE
PARIS
BRISK
PERSEUS
FROZEN
HECUBA
NIPPY
SPARROW
SLATE
FLINT
DIANA
CHALK
NATURAL
FORTE
WARBLER
RAINBOW
MERCURY
GLIDER

CONCENTRATION

Study this set of playing cards for thirty seconds, then cover them up and answer the questions below.



1 How many cards are diamonds? 2 What is the total value of all the clubs? 3 How many pairs are there?

PUZZLES

30-SECOND BRAIN TEASER

Boost your brain power with our 30-second test. Start with the number on the left and follow the instructions. Beginners should aim to complete the puzzle in 30 seconds. Intermediates should finish their own puzzle and the Beginner's puzzle. Advanced players have 30 seconds to complete their own plus the Intermediate. Good luck!

BEGINNER 17	×2	+54	4/11 of this	-19	×2	+46	÷6	-5	ANSWER
INTERMEDIATE 54	7/9 of this	+183	Take the square root	×8	-54	8/11 of this	+174	÷6	ANSWER
ADVANCED 6	×36	+187	7/13 of this	-64	÷9	+148	Increase by 80%	-38	ANSWER

SOLUTIONS

CODEWORD
1=D, 2=G, 3=N, 4=E, 5=A, 6=C, 7=P, 8=I, 9=U, 10=S, 11=O, 12=Y, 13=H, 14=V, 15=W, 16=R, 17=M, 18=J, 19=Z, 20=B, 21=X, 22=L, 23=F, 24=T, 25=Q, 26=K

HONEYCOMB
1 Bribes. 2 Ironic. 3 Cinder. 4 Dabble. 5 Barbel. 6 Branch. 7 Crouch. 8 Ormolu. 9 Loaned. 10 Needle. 11 Detail. 12 Seated.

PATTERN MAKER
SQUARE 1. One line is added each time. The colour of lines is dictated by the number of intersections with other lines. No intersections = black, one intersection = blue, two intersections = red, three intersections = green, four intersections = purple.

GIANT TWO-SPEED CROSSWORD
ACROSS: 13 Get up and go, 14 Opinion, 15 Really, 16 Master, 17 Express, 18 Piece, 19 Open, 20 Annex, 21 Weird, 22 Splash, 23 Catch, 28 Brushed, 30 Forward, 33 Saccharin, 36 Passes, 38 Spill, 39 Crowd, 40 Fasten, 42 Steal, 43 Somehow, 44 Settee, 46 Then, 49 List, 51 Withal, 53 Shifted, 55 Punch, 59 Padded, 60 Rhine, 61 Least, 62 Crayon, 63 Stands out, 65 Stooped, 66 Stiffen, 70 Swing, 71 Adjust, 73 Prone, 75 Tired, 80 Spot, 82 Pools, 83 Retinue, 84 Titter, 85 Moment, 86 Imagine, 87 For my money.
DOWN: 1 Remain, 2 Buttress, 3 Cairn, 4 Adhered, 5 Copper, 6 Dozen, 7 Misses, 8 Dispels, 9 Understand, 10 Green, 11 Panorama, 12 Blue, 24 Chinese, 25 Cease, 26 Swallow, 27 Scoffed, 29 Roast, 31 Olive, 32 Rock, 34 Escort, 35 Lone, 37 Started, 41 Satsuma, 45 Treaty, 47 Swedish, 48 Shallot, 50 In a stew, 52 Arid, 54 Frame, 56 Close, 57 Felt, 58 Acute, 60 Round robin, 64 Nineties, 67 Friction, 68 Russian, 69 Endears, 72 Turn in, 74 Run off, 76 Eleven, 77 Spats, 78 Other, 79 Stays, 81 Plot.

GK CROSSWORD
Across: 1 Carrot, 5 Dehradun, 9 Stud, 10 Undercover, 11 Lemonade, 12 Quebec, 13 El Aaiun, 14 Fincher, 16 Agassiz, 18 Squacco, 21 Ermine, 23 Cherokee, 24 Hippocrene, 26 Audi, 27 Portable, 28 Essien.
Down: 2 Antheil, 3 Radio Days, 4 Tyuyamunite, 5 Dodgem, 6 Her, 7 Atone, 8 Ukelele, 12 Quinquereme, 15 Charolais, 17 Garrido, 19 Cheadle, 20 Achebe, 22 Input, 25 Cob.

QUOTE DOWN
"Success is like reaching an important birthday and finding you're exactly the same"

WORD LADDER
One possible answer is:
Rift, Riot, Root, Rook, Rock, Dock, Duck

ANAGRAMS
Bumper cars, Rollercoaster, Ghost train, Ferris wheel, Helter-skelter

WORD SLIDE
Baulk, bract, brick, brisk, build, built, caulk, chalk, chard, charm, chart, chasm, check, chert, chest, chick, child, chirk, chuck, crack, crest, crick, crust, fault, frack, frisk, quack, qualm, quark, quart, quest, quick, quilt, quirk

NINER TRAMPLING

SHAPES 13

MIRROR IMAGE C

NETS B

SUMTHING
6x8=48, 3x4=12, 9x4=36

NUMBER JIG 7736

SUMMIT UP
A 119 **B** 92

REASONING
1 Owen pink 1st, Olga red 2nd, Orla silver 3rd, Otis blue 4th.
2 Kidney beans, pinto beans, baked beans, black beans.

EVENS
1379
2153
5698
3214

DICE GAME
Three and four

LOST FOR WORDS
Grouse, Meteor, Pizzicato

CONCENTRATION
1: 3, 2: 26, 3: 3

30-SECOND BRAIN TEASER
Beginner 7, Intermediate 37, Advanced 259.

WORDSEARCH

O	P	Z	V	X	X	T	N	G	W	I	J	U	L	I	E	T	Y	V
B	Z	Z	I	K	O	O	H	P	P	S	J	P	X	S	E	L	Z	V
X	R	I	F	P	O	B	X	E	D	P	N	O	T	H	X	J	I	V
G	M	L	E	M	B	Q	B	O	B	N	L	O	E	E	N	O	B	Z
M	Y	G	E	N	E	R	A	T	I	O	N	R	A	R	W	N	M	G
E	P	U	L	K	Y	G	H	N	X	D	X	M	R	R	T	T	N	A
J	L	V	F	I	H	J	Z	N	B	M	C	E	S	Y	K	I	W	Z
B	G	B	I	L	S	U	R	R	E	N	D	E	R	H	H	M	H	M
Y	G	V	N	I	T	D	V	V	D	L	O	O	E	T	E	A	Y	O
D	D	A	E	K	K	A	P	A	C	H	E	V	D	O	R	L	C	N
T	X	I	Z	E	A	G	O	N	O	W	O	L	J	A	A	I	P	Y
E	T	T	V	I	M	N	E	Q	L	L	I	Z	G	L	H	V	C	M
L	T	S	O	T	S	U	O	D	Y	W	F	U	M	P	F	E	P	O
S	N	O	D	G	L	O	W	B	O	A	S	M	H	H	R	C	K	N
T	Q	V	G	E	T	B	A	C	K	R	U	P	M	Y	W	A	Y	Y
A	L	E	S	Z	Y	B	Z	G	A	L	B	A	T	R	O	S	S	E
R	Y	R	B	J	V	T	Z	G	B	R	U	N	A	W	A	Y	C	B
B	L	W	H	E	W	J	U	H	R	E	S	P	E	C	T	K	Z	W
K	R	C	L	F	F	S	A	C	I	P	W	Y	E	H	Y	E	H	E

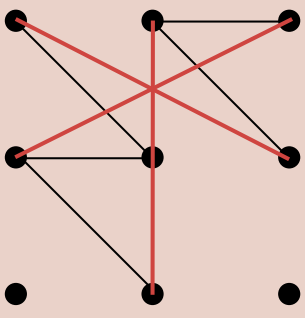
ARROWWORD

		C		P		M		G		S		D			L		E
P	E	A		E	G	O		E	X	P	R	E	S	S	I	O	N
	G	R	I	T		P	E	N		H		S	E	E	S		I
I	G	N	O	R	E	S		U	N	E	X	P	E	C	T	E	D
		A	N	O	N		T	I	E	R		E	R	R		M	
H	A	T		L	I	C	E	N	C	E		R		E	P	E	E
	R	I	D		G	R	E	E	T		M	A	S	T	E	R	Y
R	I	O		E	M	I	T		A	B	A	T	E		A	G	E
	A	N	T		A	B	H	O	R		N	E	T	T	L	E	S

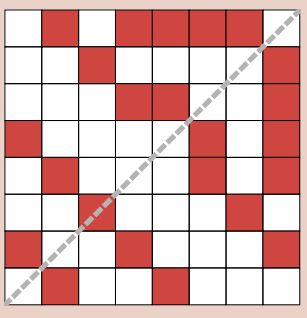
LOGIC

Contestant	Fish type	Fish length	Ranking
Niamh	Pike	24 cm	5th
Stephen	Salmon	73 cm	2nd
Mia	Carp	48 cm	4th
Annie	Bream	60 cm	1st
Ian	Trout	30 cm	3rd

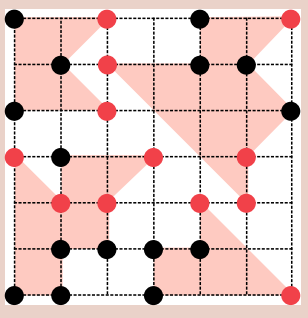
TRIANGLE



SYMMETRY



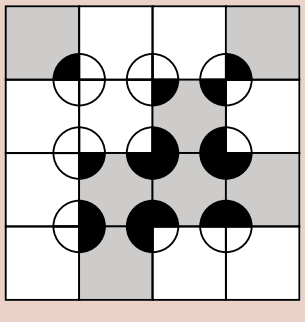
DANGO



SUDOKU EASY

9	3	4	7	1	8	6	2	5
7	6	5	4	2	3	8	9	1
1	8	2	6	9	5	4	3	7
6	7	1	9	5	2	3	4	8
4	5	3	1	8	6	2	7	9
2	9	8	3	7	4	5	1	6
5	2	9	8	3	7	1	6	4
8	1	6	2	4	9	7	5	3
3	4	7	5	6	1	9	8	2

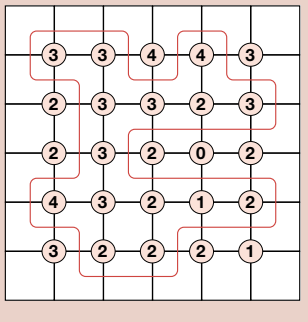
SEKI



CELLS

						3
		6	2			2
	4				4	
	5				2	
			5			3
2		3		2	2	
	4					

LOOP



SUDOKU HARD

2	5	9	1	3	7	8	6	4
3	6	8	9	4	2	5	1	7
4	1	7	6	5	8	3	9	2
6	2	3	8	1	4	7	5	9
8	7	1	2	9	5	6	4	3
9	4	5	7	6	3	2	8	1
5	8	4	3	2	1	9	7	6
7	9	2	4	8	6	1	3	5
1	3	6	5	7	9	4	2	8

DOUBLE JIGWORD A

E	C	H	O	■	C	O	P	E
■	H	■	B	■	U	■	O	■
C	A	M	E	M	B	E	R	T
■	L	■	Y	■	A	■	C	■
E	L	F	■	■	■	B	E	D
■	E	■	S	■	F	■	L	■
U	N	E	T	H	I	C	A	L
■	G	■	E	■	L	■	I	■
C	E	N	T	■	L	I	N	O

DOUBLE JIGWORD B

P	E	N	D	I	N	G	■	■
■	M	■	I	■	I	■	C	■
A	P	S	E	■	P	L	O	Y
■	H	■	■	■	P	■	H	■
■	A	N	A	L	Y	S	E	■
■	S	■	B	■	■	■	R	■
S	I	L	O	■	D	E	E	D
■	S	■	U	■	O	■	N	■
■	■	S	T	A	T	U	T	E

BATTLESHIPS